

NEWS BRIEFS

Albany

Mulch to do at waterfront work day

Volunteers can help mulch native planting beds, and enter a drawing to win a gift certificate from Flowerland, at the city-sponsored Albany waterfront workday on Saturday, Nov. 22, from 9 a.m. to noon.

The work day will go on rain or shine. Meet at the waterfront (end of Buchanan Street).

Volunteers are asked to wear work clothes, gloves and sturdy shoes, and bring a metal rake.

Questions: call 510-528-5754.

Latin jazz is theme of music fund-raiser

Latin jazz star Pete Escovedo and sons Peter Michael and Juan, Claudia Villela and Ricardo Peixoto will present a concert this weekend at Albany High School.

The concert is a benefit for the Albany Music Fund, which is dedicated to preserving music education in the Albany Unified School District.

In his long career, Escovedo has toured with Santana, and collaborated with Herbie Hancock, Cal Tjader, Anita Baker, Angela Bofill, Bobby McFerrin, and Boz Scaggs, among others.

Escovedo's sons Juan and Peter Michael, have followed the family tradition of percussion. Juan has played with artists such as Prince, while Peter Michael is music director of the "Wayne Brady Show."

The concert will be held on Saturday, Nov. 22 at 7:30 p.m. in the Albany High School Gym 603 Key Route Blvd.

Doors open at 6:30. Ticket are \$30 for main-floor seating, \$20 for adults and \$10 for students or 18 and under (ask about the reserved seating front and center). All proceeds will go directly to the Albany Music Fund.

Information: 510-559-8282 or visit www.albanymusic.org.

High school actors will thrive on surprise

Audiences will choose the order of scenes to be acted by the Albany High School Theatre Ensemble as the self-supporting, student-run troupe presents the second weekend of "Yippie Skippy! There Is a Monkey in My Pants!" this weekend.

The audience-participation factor means no one, including actors and technicians, will know exactly what they will be performing on a given night.

The performances will be held at 8 tonight and Saturday, Nov. 22, and 5 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 23, in the Little Theatre, 603 Key Route. Tickets range from \$4.50-\$5.50 for seniors and students; \$9.50-\$10.50 regular admission.

El Cerrito

Kids' difficult behavior is topic of workshop

The Recreation Department and the Contra Costa Children and Families Commission will present a workshop with family therapist Kim Mack, "Dealing with Difficult Behavior in Children" on Monday, Nov. 24 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Community Center, 7007 Moers Lane.

Among the topics at the workshop: minding your child "without losing your mind," exploring negative behavior and setting appropriate limits, and channeling aggressive behavior.

The workshop is free. Baby-sitting is available upon request, and also is free. Information: 510-215-4375.

Learn about the presidential candidates

The El Cerrito Democratic Club will hold a mini-presidential convention on Tuesday, Nov. 25 at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary of the Northminster Presbyterian Church, 545 Ashbury Ave.

All Democrats in the area are invited to come and learn about the candidates for the Democratic nomination for President.

The convention will feature presentations by supporters of the various candidates. After the presentations and debate, the Democratic Club will conduct a straw poll on the nominee with all attending Democrats eligible to vote, and also consider endorsing a presidential candidate.

At the 7 p.m. meeting immediately prior to the convention, the club will consider endorsements in the U.S. Senate, State Senate and Assembly races.

For more information call 510-524-4659 or 510-524-3094.

Castro Park playground will open grandly

A dedication ceremony, ribbon-cutting and celebration will be held at the grand opening of the city's Castro Park playground, whose play structures include a rock wall, on Wednesday, Dec. 10, from 3:30 to 5 p.m.

The park is at 1420 Norvell. For information call the Community Center at 510-215-4370.

Alameda County

County child-care group seeks members

The Alameda County Child Care Planning Council is recruiting nominees for positions on the organization's steering committee. Twenty-one of the 35 available positions have terms that expire Dec. 31, 2003.

The planning council advises the county Board of Supervisors and the county superintendent of schools on child-care programs and policy issues. For information, call 510-208-9714.



TUE NAM TON/STAFF

ALBANY POLICE

Monday, Nov. 10

■ **BUSINESS ROBBED** — At about 5:30 p.m. a business on the 1200 block of Solano Avenue reported that a woman had just stolen an item and was last seen heading east on Solano Avenue in a white vehicle. She was gone when officers arrived.

■ **ROWDY CROWD** — At about 9:30 p.m. Albany dispatch began receiving calls from worried residents regarding a group of about 35 people that was gathering on the sidewalk in front of a restaurant on at Solano and San Pablo Avenues. Officers from CHP, Berkeley, El Cerrito, Richmond and UC Police responded to help disperse the crowd when it started getting unruly. Officers arrested an 18-year-old Richmond man for vandalism and delaying or obstructing an officer. He was cited and released.

Tuesday, Nov. 11

■ **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE** — At about 1 a.m. officers responded to the 900 block of Pierce Street on a report from a woman who said her husband was choking her. After investigating they arrested both the man and the woman for domestic violence. They were released on bail.

■ **AUTO RECOVERED** — At about 2 p.m. officers located a silver '86 Honda at 555 Pierce St. that had been reported as stolen from Richmond. The owner was contacted and picked up the vehicle at the scene.

■ **AUTO BREAK-IN** — A blue '96 Ford Contour parked in a lot on the 500 block of San Pablo Avenue was burgled.

■ **OUTSTANDING WARRANTS** — Officers stopped a white Ford van near Santa Fe Avenue and Francis Street and arrested the driver, a 37-year-old Richmond man, for outstanding warrants from Palo Alto for driving without a license in the amount of \$10,000. He was cited and transported to Santa Rita Jail.

■ **AUTO STOLEN, RECOVERED** — At about 9 p.m. a Point Richmond man reported that his blue '89 Mazda

Mx6 had been stolen while it was parked in a lot on the 500 block of San Pablo Avenue. It was recovered in Pinole on Nov. 13. It had not been damaged.

Wednesday, Nov. 12

■ **CAR STOLEN** — During the night thieves stole a white '83 Toyota Camry that was parked on the 1100 block of Ordway Street. There were no witnesses.

■ **DUI** — On the 900 block of Evelyn Avenue officers stopped a gray '89 Dodge pickup for a vehicle code violation. The driver, a 57-year-old Albany man, was arrested for DUI.

■ **PUBLIC INTOXICATION** — A Berkeley was arrested man on the 600 block of San Pablo Avenue for public intoxication and outstanding warrants from San Jose and Santa Clara. He was cited and released.

Thursday, Nov. 13

■ **OUTSTANDING WARRANT** — Officers stopped a blue '89 Ford Bronco near Portland and Ramona Avenues for a vehicle code violation. The driver, a 22-year-old Berkeley man, was found to have an outstanding warrant from Oakland for reckless driving in the amount of \$2,000. He was cited and transported to Santa Rita Jail.

■ **COUNTERFEIT \$100** — At about 1:30 p.m. officers responded to Golden Gate Fields on reports that they had a person in custody who had tried to use a counterfeit \$100 bill. Officers arrested the 38-year-old Rodeo man for burglary. He was cited and transported to Santa Rita Jail.

■ **GARDEN VANDAL** — A resident on the 700 block of Ramona Avenue reported that someone had cut down a bush in his yard.

Friday, Nov. 14

■ **AUTO BREAK-IN** — Thieves broke into a white Toyota Tundra truck parked on the 1100 block of Ordway Street. There were no witnesses.

He was later released.

Monday, Nov. 3

■ **DRUG POSSESSION** — A motorcyclist was stopped after driving the wrong way down Liberty Street at about 2:49 p.m. Police arrested a 33-year-old Richmond man for evading a police officer, possession of a controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia, driving on a sus-

■ **OUTSTANDING WARRANTS** — Officers arrested a 43-year-old Walnut Creek man for two outstanding Albany warrants totaling \$27,000. He was transported to Santa Rita Jail.

■ **BIKE STOLEN** — In the afternoon a bicycle was stolen from Albany High School on the 600 block of Key Route Boulevard.

■ **DISORDERLY CONDUCT** — At about 4:30 p.m. officers responded to Albany Bowl on the 500 block of San Pablo Avenue on reports of a subject who was going from alley to alley and placing his hands on children and refusing to leave. Officers arrested the 45-year-old El Cerrito man for being intoxicated in public and unable to care for himself. A check found that he had a history of disorderly conduct and DUI. He was cited and released with a Notice to Appear.

■ **SUSPENDED LICENSE** — Officers stopped an Albany woman near Yolo and Central avenues in El Cerrito for driving with a suspended license. She was arrested, cited and released with a notice to appear. Her black '89 Ford was towed.

Saturday, Nov. 15

■ **MUGGING** — Shortly after midnight a resident on the 1000 block of Peralta Avenue reported that he had been mugged while he was near Peralta and Sonoma Avenues by a group of five or six teenagers and young men. They were last seen traveling west in a tan Ford Taurus and were gone when officers arrived.

■ **DRUG WARRANTS** — At about 2 a.m. officers stopped a blue Toyota 4-runner near Fairmont and San Pablo avenues for a vehicle code violation. The driver, a 34-year-old El Cerrito man, was arrested for outstanding San Francisco warrants on drug-related charges.

■ **AUTO TAMPERING** — A resident on the 1000 block of Kains Avenue reported that someone had attempted to steal his burgundy '99 Toyota Camry.

■ **UNUSUAL DAMAGE** — A resident on the 500 block of Curtis Street re-

ported that while they were in their home something had broken through a glass door, breaking it into pieces.

■ **GRAFFITI** — Vandals painted on a building on the 1000 block of San Pablo Avenue.

■ **HOUSE EGGED** — At about 9 p.m. a resident on the 2000 Carmel Avenue reported that he had egged the house. He was cited for the vandalism. His house was again at about 9 p.m. this week.

Sunday, Nov. 16

■ **LICENSE PLATES STOLEN** — During the night thieves stole a license plate off a white Toyota Camry in the 1300 block of Avenue. There were no witnesses.

■ **DRUG ARREST** — A 30-year-old subject appeared to be breaking into a Mazda on Cleveland Avenue, Solano Avenue. They arrested a 30-year-old Richmond man for possession. He was cited and released.

■ **VANDALISM** — Unknown scratched a gold Ford Mustang on the 1100 block of Main.

Monday, Nov. 17

■ **AUTO STOLEN** — During the night thieves stole a white Integra that was parked on the block of Stannage Avenue.

Summary

During the week of Nov. 10, officers responded to 1,000 calls, including 400 false alarms, attended to 100 deceased animals, and assisted people who were locked out of their cars. In the domestic violence unit, officers responded to one domestic violence disturbance and 100 calls. Officers issued 62 citations and warnings. Firefighters responded to one fire call and medical emergencies.

EL CERRITO POLICE

Tuesday, Oct. 28

■ **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE** — On responding to the report of a possible robbery at a motel at about 1:35 p.m., an officer was met by a woman who said she had been attacked by her boyfriend in their motel room. Following her statement and examination of her alleged injuries, the officer found and arrested a 23-year-old Richmond man for domestic violence.

He was later released.

Monday, Nov. 3

■ **DRUG POSSESSION** — A motorcyclist was stopped after driving the wrong way down Liberty Street at about 2:49 p.m. Police arrested a 33-year-old Richmond man for evading a police officer, possession of a controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia, driving on a sus-

pending license, resisting an officer and providing false information to a police officer. The man was taken to the Martinez jail.

Wednesday, Nov. 12

■ **ROBBERY, POT-GROWING** — An officer investigating a reported robbery at about 11:32 a.m. was told by the victim that his apartment neighbor had stolen his cell phone. Officers

found the suspect on Garden Street, apparently under the influence of drugs. During a constant search of the suspect's apartment, they found marijuana. In addition, a window of the victim's car was smashed. Officers arrested the old El Cerrito man for robbery, cultivation of marijuana and possession of a cell phone.

— Debra

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THE JOURNAL

4301 Lakeside Drive., Richmond, CA. 94806 • 510-263-2724

Shareef Dajani, general manager • Deborah Byrd, Editor

Subscriptions are \$30 per year if carrier-delivered within the Journal's circulation area. Mail subscriptions within the United States are \$75 for six months or \$145 per year. To subscribe or report a delivery problem call 800-598-4637.

EDITORIAL

All items for publication should reach us 10 days in advance of publication and may be mailed, faxed or e-mailed.

NEWSROOM: 510-262-2724
e-mail: journal@ccimes.com
fax: 510-243-3574

EDITOR Deborah Byrd:
510-262-2724 • dbyrd@ccimes.com

NEWS STAFF:
Alan Lopez: 510-243-3578

alopez1@ccimes.com

Martin Snapp: 510-262-2787 or

mrsnapp@ccimes.com

SPORTS
Mike McGreehan: 510-748-1661

mmcgreehan@ccimes.com

Scott Strain: 510-748-1662

sstrain@ccimes.com

ADVERTISING

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Neighbors

PLACES & PLACES

ALBANY HIGH'S Leos, including Sam Harold, Briana K'Burg (club president) and Monica Oey helped organize a fund-raising breakfast recently sponsored by the Albany and Berkeley Lions Clubs.

The Latino Breakfast fundraiser was held Oct. 26 at the El Cerrito Community Center Hall in El Cerrito to raise money to deliver clothes and food to the poor in the area. Albany Lions chairwoman Audra Taber has gone to the event twice in the last year, with members full of clothing to donate.

What are the Leos about, anyway? Sounds like it's all about the club's name; it stands for Leadership, Experience, Opportunity.

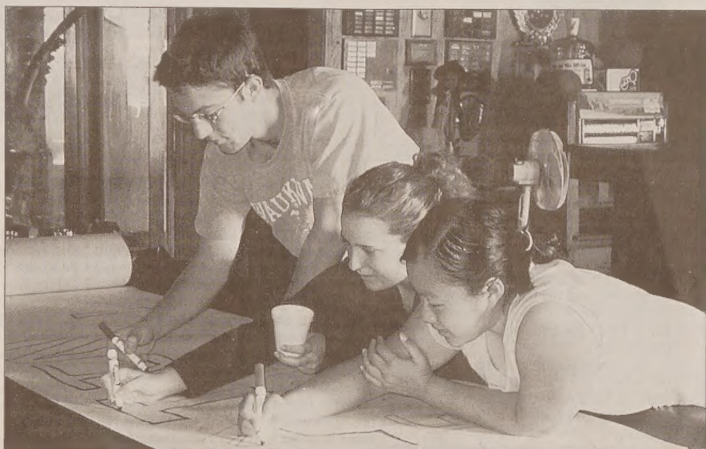
El Cerrito artist Amy Gitelman has been concentrated on watercolor until taking an outdoor painting class at Duke University. Her pastels at the North Carolina back in the working outdoors was a learning experience for her, and led her to an exhibition of pastels.

Gitelman moved to El Cerrito a year ago. Her pastels, which were inspired by the North Carolina and California Coast to Coast Landscapes at Marvin Gardens, 7502 Mount Ave. in El Cerrito, will be on display through Dec. 31. The office is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday.

Artists including Judy Stone, a painter and creator of one-of-a-kind decorative wall hangings, plates and functional objects, and jewelry designer Thomas of El Cerrito, as well as glassblower Holly Walworth and jewelry designers Carol Jensen and Nancy Pearl, are featured in the Linda and Hildegard Wilson, and Heidi Tarver and Neil ornament-maker J. Patterson, all of Berkeley, featured in the Celebrate Christmas, the largest fine crafts fair in the area, showcasing the latest in work by more than 300 of the nation's leading women artists. The 25th annual show will be held the weekends of



"ST. HELENA Vineyards I" is one of Amy Gitelman's works in pastel on display at Marvin Gardens through the end of the year.



ALBANY HIGH Leos help get the word out about a fund-raiser to help the poor in Nicaragua. Working on a poster, from left, are Sam Harold, Leo Club President Briana K'Burg and Monica Oey.

Nov. 22-23 and 29-30 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. in Festival Pavilion at Fort Mason Center in San Francisco. For information, call 415.383.3470 or check out www.teamproevent.com.

■ ■ ■
Sack trees are back! They

will sprout at Solano Avenue Association member banks just before Thanksgiving.

Customers and clients can buy a new pair of socks (infant through adult sizes) and tie them to the sock trees — stuffed with (non-perishable) goodies or

not. The socks will be collected before Christmas and then again at the New Year, and donated to homeless shelters in the area. Last year more than 300 pairs of socks found perches in the sock trees.

— Deborah Byrd

We also served at home

CELEBRATING VETERANS this year made me think of World War II and the men who were so much a part of the defense industry, in the "jobs" have been recognized recently by Richmond's "the Riveter" memorial park, and many articles and books. It is something I have remembered and thought about. I am pleased that



CLARA-RAE GENSER
Community Folk

who did not go overseas, who did not take part in the battles we read so much about. Those in the military, many drafted and many enlisted, who did their work here, at home, being part of the training, care and service to the ones who did go fight. You hear very little of them. They usually do not take part in the parades and celebrations. They cannot tell their grandchildren of their heroic efforts during the war.

Yet there were thousands of them, in all sorts of places throughout the country. They joined to be a part of the war, and they were. But they were a silent part, mostly working behind the scenes to help make it all work.

My late husband and I were among those who were in the military here at home. There was a time when I was told to pack my barracks bag and have it on the truck in an hour, for shipment overseas. My bag was on the truck when I was

sent to the infirmary for a quick physical. When it was discovered that I had no GI glasses (metal frames) and my eyes were 20/200, I was told to forget it. It developed that I was to have been sent to Guam to set up a radio net. Someone else was sent in my place.

When I changed from Radio to Legal Office, it was to replace Joe Genser, who was to be sent overseas. But they decided the work he was doing here was too important, and he was too good at it, so he, too, never went. We worked well together, and ... well, that's another story.

But I knew how we felt, and how many others in situations similar to ours felt. They did not join veterans organizations (although we did join the American Veterans Committee, where we were "citizens first,

veterans second.")

Nor did we march in parades. But we felt we had done our part, and a good part, and we were, indeed, veterans. I am not asking for anything in this, just recognizing those who "also served" in the war that changed us, changed America, and, indeed, changed the world.

When my daughter telephoned me to wish me happy Veterans Day I thought, yes, it is my day, too, and so I started remembering, and realizing, and recognizing. That's what the day was for.

Do you know people, places or groups in El Cerrito, Albany or Kensington that would make good subjects for this column? If so, write me at 555 Pierce St., No. 443, Albany, CA 94706 or call 510-525-4585. My e-mail is crgenser@aol.com.

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Local soldier's safe return answers mother's prayers

JONI STICKNEY of El Cerrito celebrated Thanksgiving a little early this year. Her son, Army Spec. Jay Taylor, came home last Thursday from Iraq, safe and sound. Now she can take down a blue star in her window that signifies a loved one in harm's way.

On Sunday, with Jay and his wife, Yurika, by her side, Joni stood up at St. Alban's Church in Albany, where her husband, Jim, is pastor, and thanked God for bringing her boy back.

Watching him tower over his mom at 6-foot-2, it's hard to believe Jay began life as a 4½-pound preemie who had to stay in the hospital for a month before he was big enough to bring home.

She named him Jathanael, an Old Testament word meaning "God given." He grew into a sweet little boy who was crazy about cars, trucks and trains.

She worried a little when he played defensive end in high school, and even more when he joined the Army. But she felt nothing compared to how she felt last March, when the shooting started.

"He called and said he was with the '3ID,' but I had no idea what that meant. The next night, I'm watching CNN, and Greg Kelly is saying, 'I'm embedded with the 3rd Infantry Division, and these berms that we're going by means we've just entered Iraq.'"

That was the last she heard about him for more than a month. The silence was agony.

"I felt so helpless. The psychologists tell you not to stay glued to the news, but I couldn't help it. I had to know the worst I was imagining wasn't happening. Even when I was at work, any time a program took more than 10 seconds to load, I would hop over to CNN, United Army News, even some Arab Web sites to find out what was happening."

Fortunately, her superiors at work understood. "They were very, very patient with me. And the people at St. Alban's were wonderful, too. They'd see me sitting in a pew crying, and they'd come up and hug me."

Especially helpful was her Monday night Contemplative Prayer group. By coincidence, their scripture reading the first



MARTIN SNAPP
Snapp Shots

night after the war began was John 4:50: "Your son shall live."

"That was a great comfort. I hung on to that. But it didn't say he would come home in one piece, so I was still really scared."

After the official "end" of fighting in May, people would come up to Joni and say, "Aren't you glad he's safe now?" But she knew better. "I won't feel he's safe until he's back here," she'd say.

That finally happened last Thursday, when Jay arrived at SFO. Joni hugged him a long, long time. On their way home on the Bay Bridge, they called his favorite restaurant, Liu's Kitchen, and ordered his favorite dishes: Mongolian beef, cashew chicken and mu shu pork.

The first thing he did when he got home was take a long bath. The second thing was take another bath. His uniform was so stiff with dried sweat, it literally stood up by itself.

Some members of the congregation at St. Alban's oppose the war in Iraq. Others support it. No matter; they all shared Joni's joy. There were tears in her eyes — and in many others', as well — when she sang, "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow."

But her happiness isn't complete. There's a second blue star in her window. It's for her younger son, Josiah, who is on active duty in the Navy. Until he comes home, too, Joni will still worry.

As do thousands of other mothers, all across the country.

Reach Martin Snapp at 510-262-2787 or e-mail msnapp@cctimes.com.

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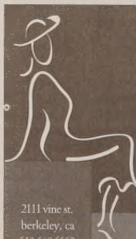


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THE JOURNAL

"... were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate to prefer the latter."

— Thomas Jefferson

EDITORIAL

Help a family —
use a barrel

WHAT DID YOU have for breakfast? What's for dinner tonight? Maybe you don't know exactly what you're going to eat at your next meal, but you do know there will be a next meal. For most of us, our biggest food problem is deciding what to eat rather than wondering if there will be anything to eat.

We are just plain fortunate, not needing to worry about how to feed our kids, our elders, ourselves. We don't have to divvy up little portions of soup, or worry over how to get a still-hungry baby to sleep. We don't have to deal with a daily crisis of finding a way to stretch a half-cup of rice or a half-dozen eggs to ease a family's hunger.

For many people, last Saturday was one opportunity to show some compassion, some gratitude for their good fortune. A plastic bag was delivered to most homes for the annual Scouting for Food drive. And all anyone had to do was spend a minute or so filling it and placing it back outside.

However, what if you were out of town Saturday, or forgot the plastic bag until you returned home after your daughter's soccer game? Is the opportunity lost? Are all your good intentions gone?

No — the Scouting for Food drive is only the kickoff for the annual Holiday Food Drive the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano and the Alameda County Community Food Bank hold to make sure that families and individuals in need have Thanksgiving and/or Christmas dinner.

There are many simple ways to contribute this season.

You can just add a couple things to your grocery list — the top 10 food list includes canned meat and fish; peanut butter in a plastic container; any type of dry beans; enriched rice; canned fruit in juice; and 100 percent fruit juice — and then drop them off in one of the bright-red collection barrels that will be seen all over the county as the holidays near. Albertson's has barrels in its stores in October and early November, and now all Safeway stores will have the barrels set out until Dec. 31.

Organize a food drive at your children's school, or your church, or your company. The food banks Web sites — www.foodbankccs.org and www.acffb.org — give all the details about how to "take the food drive challenge."

Then there's the Turkey Tally. For the 12th year, ABC7 and Bay Area food banks are working together, and any individual, company or organization donating 25 turkeys or chickens, or \$250, by Nov. 28 will be spotlighted by ABC7 meteorologist Spencer Christian on the news at 6 p.m. For information about the Turkey Tally, call the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano at 925-676-7543, ext. 214 or the Alameda County Community Food Bank at 510-834-3663, ext. 328.

Or you can volunteer your time — help sort food at food bank warehouses, help with deliveries if you own a truck or van, help distribute food at a program site, or help in many other ways. Just call 800-870-FOOD (800-870-3663) for suggestions.

The food banks are always in need of our help so it can help others.

Many people depend on food banks to keep food in the house — maybe your donation will be helping a toddler, or a high school student, or an 87-year-old with only Social Security to count on.

Maybe it will be an entire family whose head of household became a casualty of corporate cutbacks, who wants to work but can't get hired, and who can't make ends meet on unemployment.

All we need to do is give a little to make a big difference.

YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

House of Representatives

Barbara Lee: (D-9th District: Albany, Berkeley, most of Oakland) 414 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515; 202-225-2661. Fax: 202-225-9817; 1301 Clay St., Ste. 1000N, Oakland, CA 94612; 510-763-0370. Fax: 510-763-6538. E-mail: barbara.lee@mail.house.gov.

Ellen Tauscher: (D-10th District, El Cerrito, Kensington) 1801 N. California Blvd., Ste. 103, Walnut Creek CA 94596; 925-932-8899 or 1122 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515; 202-225-1880. E-mail through www.house.gov/tauscher

State Senate

Don Perata: (D-9th District: Albany, Berkeley) State Capitol, Room 4061, Sacramento, CA 95814; 916-445-6577. Fax: 916-327-1997; 1515 Clay St., No. 2202, Oakland, CA 94612; 510-286-1333. Fax: 510-286-3885. E-mail: senator.perata@sen.ca.gov.

Tom Torlakson: (D-7th District: El Cerrito, Kensington) 2801 Concord Blvd., Concord CA 94519; 800-859-9900 or State Capitol, Room 2068, Sacramento CA 95814; 916-445-6083, e-mail: senator.torlakson@sen.ca.gov

Assembly

Loni Hancock: (D-14th District: Albany, Berkeley, El Cerrito, El Sobrante, Emeryville, Kensington, Richmond, San Pablo, North and West Oakland) State Capitol, P.O. Box

942849, Sacramento, CA 94249, 916-319-2014. Fax: 916-319-2114; 918 Parker St., Ste. A13, Berkeley, CA 94710; 510-540-3660; Fax: 510-540-3655; 101 Broadway, Richmond, CA 94804; 510-234-0211; Fax: 510-234-0213.

County Supervisors

John Gioia: (1st District) 11780 San Pablo Ave., Suite D, El Cerrito, CA 94530; 510-374-3231. Fax: 510-374-3429. E-mail: dist1@bos.co.contra-costa.ca.us.

Keith Carson: (5th District) 1221 Oak St., Ste. 536, Oakland, CA 94612; 510-272-6695. Fax: 510-271-5151. E-mail: kcarrson@co.alameda.ca.us.

Cities

El Cerrito: City offices, 10890 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito; 510-215-4300. E-mail: citycouncil@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us

Albany: City offices, 1000 San Pablo Ave., Albany; 510-528-5710.

Kensington: Fire Protection District 217 Arlington Blvd. 510-527-8395

Police Protection and Community Services District 217 Arlington Blvd. 510-526-4141

School boards

West Contra Costa Unified School District: 510-620-2246

Albany Unified School District: 510-558-3766

JEFF HANSEN • HILLS NEWSPAPERS

HAVE A HAPPY THANKSGIVING



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Media-based politics

Jim Bettinger, director of the John S. Knight Fellowships for Professional Journalists at Stanford, says the media don't get it. That's basically accurate, but is still off the mark.

He overlooks the fact that most media writers are liberal Democrats and repeat, as fact, everything the party says. Since they produce 80 to 90 percent of published "news" in the Bay Area, it is easy to see why so many people in this area think they are getting the "real facts." Either they are not or the rest of Californians are "misinformed."

Why? We have not learned to stop listening to the spinmeisters and pundits that monopolize our local media, who think it is appropriate for politicians to mismanage our tax revenues and justify it with outdated socialist dogma.

Most people understand socialism has failed to improve the lot of poor people. They now recognize politicians are more concerned about their own wealth than in helping raise up the poor or improving education and our infrastructure.

Gray Davis represented politicians who followed a pattern that is as old as civilization itself — that control and wealth go to leaders and not the followers. If a private corporation acted that way and had overspent by \$40 billion in three years, resulting in a \$30 billion shortage, that company would be bankrupt and all key employees would be out of a job or in jail. Lawsuits would be flying.

I think most people now know this and are "mad as hell and want take it any more." This was the one thing that Schwarzenegger tapped into that won the recall for him.

People hope the recall can lead to a new political reality in which they can take charge of their own destiny. Unfortunately, there is only a slim chance that the recall will get us beyond media-based politics-as-usual and history is bound to repeat itself again and again.

John Muth
El Cerrito

Our tarnished image

I'm trying to make sense of our latest Iraq War, but the Alice-in-Wonderland quality of it grows.

Our war has united two enemies of America — Saddam Hussein and al-Qaida — that weren't allies before the war. In fact, Saddam, a secular Arab dictator, didn't want al-Qaida in Iraq because it threatened his regime.

We have also placed a huge number of our military men and women where they are very easy targets for these two allies who are operating on their home turf, in their language, among their people. This is called a success?

We invaded Iraq, one of the three nations President Bush designated as comprising an "Axis of Evil." According to Bush, it had weapons of mass destruction. No such weapons have been found. Bush now admits we may possibly need to be in Iraq for years.

Meanwhile, another "Axis of Evil" country, North Korea, flaunts the fact it has weapons of mass destruction. But we can't do much about it, mainly because most of our military forces are stuck in Iraq. And the other "Axis of Evil" country, Iran, clearly has a nuclear program far more advanced than Iraq ever had. Yet, we can't do anything about Iran either, because our military is tied down in Iraq. This is called success?

In 1939, Adolf Hitler pre-emptively invaded Poland on the grounds it had a right to do so because Poland was harm-

ing its German citizens. Germany also pre-emptively attacked the Soviet Union in 1941, claiming the Soviet Union posed a threat to Nazi Germany. In fact, Germany pre-emptively attacked many countries on the pretext of defending itself.

In 1941, Japan pre-emptively attacked the United States, claiming it had a right to strike first at a country it believed was preparing to attack it.

After World War II, the United States led the world in creating the United Nations in order to try to stop such lawless behavior by nation states.

In 2002, the United States declared it had the right to pre-emptively attack a fifth-rate power, Iraq, because it was a threat to the United States.

We call this success and then wonder why the rest of the world sees us as a rogue superpower and bully!

Norman La Force
El Cerrito

Unlikely ride?

I certainly agree with Albany resident Suzan Snider's disappointment with the city's landscaping efforts (or lack of it) along Buchanan Street (Journal article, Nov. 7).

Snider's proposed "ride" with the maintenance workers for a day may be compromised, however, as I read in the Albany "Police Blotter" that a city dump truck, keys left inside, was stolen on San Pablo Avenue.

There were no witnesses.

Jeff Kintner
AlbanyNo need for added
commercial zone

The Albany Planning and Zoning Commission proposes rezoning the west side of Kains Avenue and east side of Adams Street to commercial, within an expanded San Pablo Avenue commercial district.

This would remove existing zoning protections of a conditional use permit and public hearing, automatically allowing any type of commercial establishment currently permitted on San Pablo Avenue as long as the entrance is on San Pablo Avenue. This conflicts with the current Albany General Plan, which recommends high-density residential zoning for most of Kains and Adams.

Expanding the commercial district will put more traffic directly onto narrow residential streets and aggravate existing parking issues in the area. With 24 kids on my block alone, we don't want more cars whizzing down our street to avoid the lights and traffic in an expanded commercial district.

The proposed changes do not agree with the city's mission statement of "maintaining Albany's small town ambience, responding to the needs of the community, and providing a safe, healthy environment now and in the future."

The commission also propose new

"commercial node" zoning at Macdonald and Solano, Santa Fe and Solano, San Pablo and Solano, and Marin and San Pablo. This zoning promotes taller, high-density mixed commercial and residential buildings.

The Planning and Zoning Commission has scheduled a special public meeting Tuesday at City Hall, 1000 San Pablo Avenue into a three-street-wide shopping mall; the correct alternative is to rezone Kains Avenue and Adams Street as residential.

Francis Chapman
Albany

Help education

Polls show most Americans want universal medical care by a single-payer, the federal-income-tax-funded system, like that of Canada.

Overdue is U.S. outcry for single-payer public education, although voucher plan charter schools, and the No Child Left Behind Act fail to bring equitable public education to both the rich and poor.

Congress should scale federal income tax rates steeply upward, however close to 90 percent of income from the rich to pay for universal health care and a single-payer kindergarten to grade 12 nationwide public school system of equal expenditure per pupil, after initial abolition of presently underfunded schools.

Also needed are standardized national proficiency testing of teachers and a nationwide, modern and flexible wide scope core curriculum to start with, enabled by, mastery of the three R's.

Judith Segard
Berkeley

SB60 makes us safer

SB60, restoring drivers-license responsibilities and rights for undocumented immigrants, will make California safer. State Sen. Tom Torlakson deserves credit for voting for this law Gov. Gray Davis for signing it.

In a Nov. 11 letter, Brenda Walcott claims, without evidence, that SB60 is a "bad" law that will undermine public safety. In fact, SB60 will clean up our roadworld where drivers the least familiar with U.S. traffic laws — yet allowed on our roads — had no incentive to learn the laws or take a driving test. Where they couldn't carry insurance.

SB60 simply restores rules that were California well for decades. That was before 1993, when former governor Pete Wilson, pandering to the anti-immigrant vote, restricted immigrants' access to licenses.

Since then, California's had the nation's third-highest rate of fatal collisions involving an unlicensed driver. Does anyone think that tragic statistic's a coincidence?

By pushing to overturn SB60, Schwarzenegger, GOP troublemaker, and the many former Wilson associates, Schwarzenegger has inherited, threatened to continue endangering everyone on the road.

Blame them if someone you know is harmed by an unlicensed and uninsured driver whom SB60 would have brought into the system. This isn't about illegal immigration — it's simply about lives.

Michael K...
Berkeley

HOW TO REACH US

Letters to the editor reflect the opinion of the writer. Letters must include your first and last name, address and daytime phone number. All letters are subject to verification. All letters are subject to editing for brevity and style. Not all letters may be published.

MAIL: 4301 Lakeside Drive,
Richmond, CA 94530

FAX: 510-243-3574

E-MAIL: journal@cctimes.com

ALBANY PTA NEWS

Albany High School

Parents may receive the daily newsletter and important announcements by e-mail.

Send Linda Okamoto at okamoto@earthlink.net

Nov. 23, Fall Theater Ensemble, Fri. 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun. at 5 p.m., AHS Theater, tickets sold at door, for more information call 510-558-2579

Nov. 24, Athletic Boosters Meeting, 7 p.m., AHS Library

Albany Middle School

Parents may receive the daily newsletter and important announcements by e-mail.

Send Frances Santiago at santiago@hotmail.com

Nov. 24, Call Dorothy Brown at 510-526-3123 or e-mail: dorothybrown@yahoo.com

Nov. 25, Save and turn in General Mills boxtops for education to office.

Albany Elementary School

Parents may receive important announcements by e-mail.

Send Barbara Grady-Ayer at ayergb@aol.com

Nov. 24, Call Mark Privin 510-528-3123 or e-mail: privestw@pacbell.net

Albany Elementary School

Parents may receive important announcements by e-mail.

Send Kay Weinstein at 510-525-0363 or e-mail: kayweinstein@yahoo.com

CERRITO HIGH SCHOOL NOTES

STUDENT FUND-RAISER:

The El Cerrito High girls basketball team will begin selling the El Cerrito School Community Birthday Calendar to raise money for the program.

The calendar features a picture of El Cerrito High School and the names of students, faculty and celebrities on birthdays as well as important dates and club meetings.

Order is \$3 with all of the proceeds going to the basketball program.

Calendars are available from any player on the El Cerrito High girls basketball team. Order and \$5 to: Teresa A. Gressel, 1000 Oak Grove Ave., Richmond, 94804. Send the money along with the calendar and address it should include a phone number.

A limited supply of the calendar is available.

For more information, call Kay Weinstein at 510-525-0363 or e-mail: kayweinstein@yahoo.com

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Nov. 23, Fall Theater Ensemble, Fri. 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun. at 5 p.m., AHS Theater, tickets sold at door, for more information call 510-558-2579

Nov. 24, Athletic Boosters Meeting, 7 p.m., AHS Library

Ocean View Elementary School

Dec. 6, Craft Fair, for booth rentals call Pam Reed at 510-526-4053

Nov. 24, Call Laurie Amaro at 510-525-0476

Recycle used computer printer cartridges from your home or office. Look for bins in the library.

AUSD Board of Education

Nov. 25, Regular Meeting, 7:30p.m., Cornell Multi-Purpose Room

AUSD Calendar

Nov. 27-28, Thanksgiving Holidays (NO SCHOOL)

Thanks to Albany SchoolCARE (an independent fundraising organization) for their ongoing efforts to sell scrip benefiting Albany PTAs.

Attention: Online Shoppers. Support Albany Schools by going to www.schoolscrip.com or www.schoolscrip.com to access 125 merchants including Nordstrom.com, Amazon.com, drugstore.com and Lands' End. Up to 20 percent of every purchase goes back to your school.

Also, don't forget to support your local merchants who support Albany schools!

Items? Call Kay Weinstein at 510-525-0363 or e-mail: kayweinstein@yahoo.com

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Items? Call Kay Weinstein at 510-525-0363 or e-mail: kayweinstein@yahoo.com

Ounce of prevention can curtail many senior injuries

Quote of the week:
"Age cannot wither her, nor custom stale Her infinite variety."
— William Shakespeare, "Antony and Cleopatra" Act II, Scene 2



JULIE WINKELSTEIN
At the Library

EVERY TWO MONTHS I go to a Senior Services meeting for the Alameda County Library. The other senior representatives and I meet with Richard Bray, who is the coordinator, and his able and enthusiastic support person, Patricia Ruscher. This month's meeting was about preventing senior injuries and it was so interesting I decided I should write a column about it.

Colleen Campbell, coordinator for the Senior Injury Prevention Project (SIPP), gave an upbeat and lively presentation, and the statistics she presented were impressive. Using Power Point, she showed a pie chart with the title "Hospitalizations by Type of Injury Age 60 — Alameda County — 2000."

The list included all kinds of unintentional injuries, including bicycle-related, burns, cuts, overexertion, pedestrian-related, suffocation, motor vehicle-related and falls. Of those, falls accounted for 77 percent

— which seems like a huge amount to me. She also showed us a bar diagram of the same kind of injuries, but this time by number of people in various age groups. The 20 years-and-under group showed about 1,300 injuries; 21-44 about 1,700; 45-64 about 1,500; and 65 and over about 3,400.

Another thought-provoking statistic is that people age 65 and over represented about 10 percent of Alameda County's population in 2000, yet they accounted for 43 percent of the hospitalizations and deaths due to unintentional injury.

In case you are wondering about the term "unintentional injury," Colleen told us the word "accident" isn't used, because it implies there is nothing that could have been done to prevent the incident, and this is contrary to the strong belief of her organization that

much can be done to avoid some of these injuries.

Suggestions include: Make your home a safe place to live; work to become or stay physically fit; use handrails; avoid wearing long nightgowns or other clothing that you might step on; never carry items in a way that prevents you from seeing where you are putting your feet; and talk to your doctor or pharmacist about the side effects of your medication. She also made a point of mentioning the possible danger of adding non-prescription or herbal remedies to life medications you are already taking.

There are many organizations working as partners with SIPP, including the American Medical Response, the Alameda County Library, and several other Alameda County agencies, such as the medical center and the fire department. One of the best resources, though, is the opportunity for what they call "60-plus adults" to participate in a fall prevention discussion group. These are drop-in and free groups, where a group leader provides information about fall prevention and leads a conversation about individual situations and

personal experiences. Participants come away from the group with a free copy of "Preventing Falls," a small book SIPP has put together.

Other events include a Senior Injury Prevention conference on May 13 and 14, 2004, and the Alameda County senior day programs in April and June 2004. If you want more information about this project and the discussion groups, Colleen Campbell's telephone number is 510-577-3535.

READER REVIEW: Today's book review is from Frances and the book is Cornelia Funke's "Inkheart." Frances says this book is about "Meggie and her father Mo, who is a book repairer, but she doesn't know her father is a fantastic storyteller who has brought some evil characters alive. They will have to read them back into the book." One word Frances would use to describe this book is "spell-binding" and she recommends it because "you'll never want to read books aloud again."

Reach librarian Julie Winkelstein at jwinkelstein@aclib.org or at the Albany Library.

LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

As part of the Alameda County Library, the Albany Library, celebrates Children's Book Week through Nov. 26. The Children's Book Council created Children's Book Week to encourage children, and the adults who care for them, to make time each day with a favorite book.

Book lovers can also check out the libraries' "Challenge Page" at www.aclibrary/kid-space. Click on "Children Book Week Plus," unscramble the titles of well-known children's books and win a prize.

Toddler Times — storytimes for children ages 24 to 36 months, are coming back to the Albany Library. The new series runs through Dec. 15, Monday afternoons at 3 p.m. Call soon for

sign ups: 510-526-3720 (children's desk).

The Albany Library is located at 1247 Marin Ave. and is a branch of the Alameda County Library. Information: 510-526-3720 ext 20.

The El Cerrito Library's book club, Readers Anonymous, meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. Copies of the current selection are available at the checkout desk and new members are always welcome. The selection for Nov. 25 is "House of Sand and Fog," by Andre Dubus.

Also at El Cerrito: Cathy Ann Taylor, expert guide from Mountain Travel Sobek, will do a slide presentation of travels through

Nepal, Tibet and Bhutan Thursday, Dec. 11 at 7 p.m. Admission is free.

Call 510-526-7512 to sign up. The El Cerrito Library is located at 6510 Stockton Ave. For more information, call 510-526-7512.

The Kensington Library holds Family Storytimes for all ages on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. (except when special programs are scheduled). The Kensington Library is at 61 Arlington Ave., Kensington, CA 94707-1098. Phone: 510-524-3043

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Calendar

Submissions to the Community Calendar must be received Thursdays one week prior to publication. Listings are on a space-available basis. Mail submissions to Ann Fields, 1969 Mountain Blvd., Oakland, CA 94611; e-mail to afields@cctimes.com or fax to 510-339-4066.

Children

■ **Albany High School Theater Ensemble**, the only student-run, self-supporting club at Albany High, will perform an original collection of 30 plays in 60 minutes entitled "Yippie Skippy! There is a Monkey in My Pants." at 8 p.m. on Nov. 21, 22; and 5 p.m. Nov. 23. The production will be presented in the Albany High School Little Theater, 603 Key Route Blvd., and involves high school drama club students from ninth to twelfth grade. Admission: from \$4.50 to \$5.50 for students and seniors and \$9.50 to \$10.50 for adults. Sold at the door on the night of show only. Details: 510-558-2500 ext. 579.

■ **UC Berkeley Lawrence Hall of Science** holds a science exhibit "Jelly Belly presents Candy Unwrapped," through Jan. 4. LHS is the public science and math center of UC Berkeley. Hours: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Location: Centennial Drive below Grizzly Peak. 510-642-5132 or visit the Web site at www.lawrencehallscience.org.

■ **Toddler Times** with stories, bounces and stretches, are coming back to the Albany Library, the new series on Mondays from Nov. 10 through Dec. 15 at 3 p.m. The library is at 1247 Marin Ave. Call for sign-ups: 526-3720, Ext. 17.

■ **Children's Social Skills and Manners** workshops are offered in Albany on Saturdays for two hours, 3 to 5 p.m. Each workshop lasts for four weeks. Details: Linda, 527-6202.

■ **Ten Support Group** meets twice a month Tuesday evenings at the Women's Cancer Resource Center, 3023 Shattuck Ave. The free group is for teens who have a parent or caregiver with cancer. The meeting is co-facilitated by a teen whose mother had breast cancer. 531-7551.

■ Check out books from the **Berkeley Richmond Jewish Community Center Library**. Spend quality time with your kids, meet with the children's librarian, research your Jewish roots or check out best sellers. The library is at 1414 Walnut St. Hours: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Tuesdays: 848-0237.

■ **El Cerrito** offers special programs for children from 22 months to 5 years of age designed to offer parents an opportunity to leave their pre-school children in a safe atmosphere under qualified supervision. The program for ages 22 months to 3-1/2 years meets Monday-Thursday from 9 a.m. to noon. Registration is continuous as long as space is available. Located at 7007 Moerser Lane. 215-4371.

■ The Ann Martin Children's Center offers eight "Support Groups For Mothers," sessions for first time mothers and babies their babies under 5 months. Experienced facilitator. Details: 524-0821.

Community

■ The **Cal Sailing Club** offers free sailboat rides on San Francisco Bay, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday Dec. 14, at the Cal Sailing Club, located at the Berkeley Marina, near the bottom of University

Avenue next to Adventure Playground. Bring warm, waterproof clothes — you may get wet. For more information, call the club at 510-287-5905, or visit the Web site at www.cal-sailing.org.

■ The **Judah L. Magnes Museum**, 2911 Russell St., presents the exhibit "Brought to Light: The Storied Collections of the Judah L. Magnes Museum" through April 25. Hours: Open Sunday through Thursday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Closed Jewish and federal holidays. Admission is free. For more information, call 510-549-6950.

■ **Berkeley Neighborhood Computers**, a non-profit organization, provides high-value and high-demand computer technology training for disadvantaged and at-risk individuals. The organization seeks computers and networking equipment to be used for training purposes. All donations are tax deductible. 845-1226 or e-mail bnc@netvalue.net.

■ **Berkeley Camera Club** meet Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. at the Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda, Berkeley. Share slides and prints, learn what other photographers are doing. Monthly field trips. Details: 525-3565.

■ **TOPS (Take Pounds Off Sensibly)** Chapter CA 1294 meets Thursdays, 7:15-8:30 p.m. Thursday at Mira Vista UCC Church, 7075 Cutting Blvd. TOPS is a non-profit organization assisting men and women in weight control. Betty Coates at 235-0490.

■ **Turning Point at the YWCA**, 2600 Bancroft Way, sponsors Resume Clinics on Tuesday afternoons, or by appointment. For an appointment, leave a message several days before you would like to meet. Anne Levine has a background in design and education. Call 848-6370.

■ **Berkeley's Office of Emergency Services** presents a new series of free Community Emergency Response Training classes. The classes give basic, practical information, including hands-on training in fire suppression, light search and rescue, and disaster first aid. All classes are held at the fire department's Emergency Operations Center, 997 Cedar St. The classes are open to everyone, 18 or older, who lives or works in Berkeley. Register: 844-8736.

■ **Berkeley Art Museum**, Pacific Film Archive offers a guided tour of Equal Partner: Men and Women Principals in Contemporary Architectural Practice presented by graduate students from the UC Berkeley Department of Architecture, College of Environmental Design on alternating Thursdays at 12:15 p.m. and on Sundays at 2 p.m. 842-0808.

■ **Overeaters Anonymous** meet Fridays at 1:30 p.m. at the Northbrae Community Church in Berkeley, 941 The Alameda between Solano and Marin avenues, in Room 2 — the child-care room — parents may bring their children. This organization is for individuals who eat compulsively. 525-5231.

■ **Toastmasters**, do it now. Stand up and say what you mean. Come practice Tuesday, noon to 1 p.m. at 700 Heinz Ave. Call 883-6708 for details.

■ **Civil Rights** activists needed. Write the ACLU chapter of Berkeley, Albany, Richmond, and Kensington. P.O. Box 11141, Berkeley, CA, 94701.

■ **"Work Buddies"**, volunteers needed to work with people in early stage Alzheimer's Disease. Minimum six-month commitment, two to three hours per week. Training provided. Contact Nannette Lipton, 844-8292.



The NUBRU TRIO plays the music of Dave Brubeck at the Jazzschool, 2087 Addison St. in Berkeley, on Sunday, Nov. 23, at 8 p.m. General admission is \$15; students and seniors, \$12; Jazzschool students, \$10. Seating is limited and on a first-come first-served basis. Details: 510-845-5373.

Exhibits

■ The **Berkeley Art Center**, 1275 Walnut St., presents an exhibit of 60 postrevolutionary Cuban posters from the Cuban Film Institute, OSPAAAL, and Editora Politica with examples of work by Bay Area artists. Gallery hours: noon to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday. Closed Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 27. Free admission, donations accepted. For a complete listing of other events at the Center, call 510-644-6893 or visit the Web site at www.berkeleyartcenter.org.

■ The exhibit **Early Women of Berkeley (1878-1953)** and their organizations runs through March 27. The exhibit, curated by the College Women's Club/Berkeley Branch of the American Association of University Women and the Berkeley Historical Society, celebrates how women shaped Berkeley's history, working alone and through their clubs. A women's history lecture series is also planned. Exhibit open is Sunday, Sept. 28 from 2-5 p.m. at the Berkeley History Center, 1931 Center St. Details: 848-0181. Admission free.

Film/dance/stage

■ **Aurora Theatre Company** presents the play "Lobby Hero" from Nov. 14 to Dec. 21. An amusingly hapless security guard, his straight-faced boss, a feisty rookie female cop, and her swaggering veteran partner intertwine their lives. Showtimes: 8 p.m. Wednesdays through Saturdays; 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sundays; additional show at 8 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 25. No show Thursday, Nov. 27. Admission: previews \$28. Opening nights \$40. Regular performances Wednesdays, Thursdays Sunday \$34; Fridays and Saturdays \$36. For tickets, call 510-843-4822; or visit www.auroratheatre.org.

■ **Berkeley Richmond Jewish Community Center**, 1414 Walnut St., presents the film, "A Brivle der Mamen," from 2 to 4 p.m. Nov. 16. Suggested donation: \$2. Peer-led discussion following movie. 510-848-0237.

■ **Contra Costa Civic Theatre**, 951 Pomona Ave., El Cerrito, continues its musical production "Forever Plaid" 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays through Nov. 29. Celebrate the delightful reincarnation of The Plaid, a guy group involved in an accident while on its way to its first real gig. Tickets: \$20, \$12 age 16 and under. No performances Nov. 14-16. Reservations: 510-524-9132.

■ Learn easy **International folk dances**, fun for all ages at the Albany YMCA, 921 Kains Ave. No experience needed. Wear comfortable shoes and come prepared for a good time. Admission: Adults \$2, kids \$1. 525-1130.

■ **Friday Night Folk Dancing**: 8 p.m. - 11 p.m.; no partners necessary for line dances taught from Rumania, Bulgaria, Israel, Turkey, Near East and other lands each Friday from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m., followed by request dances from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. No experience necessary - all ages welcome. Albany YMCA, 901 Kains Ave.; \$4; call 525-1542.

■ **Family Folkdancing** takes place the third Sunday, 1-2:30 p.m. at Ashkenaz Music and Dance Community Center, 1317 San Pablo Ave. Instructor: Denise Schultz Weiss. Bring your feet and a spirit of fun. No experience necessary. An opportunity for families to dance and laugh together. Drop in for good fun and exercise. All ages welcome. Drop-in class, no registration needed. Adults \$3, children \$2. Details: 632-3713.

■ **Swing Dance Classes!** Learn East coast swing and Lindy Hop with Michael and Persephone of Shagtime Dance Instruction, on Mondays at the Work Studio, 2566 Telegraph Ave. Beginning Lindy Hop runs 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. East Coast Swing from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. and beginning Lindy Hop 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Tuesdays, at The Beat, 2560 Ninth St. Classes run as a monthly series. Details: Michael Marangio at 528-7858.

Health

■ **Charcot Marie Tooth** support group meets Saturdays bimonthly at West Berkeley Library, 1125 University Ave. from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. CMT is a neuro-pathic disorder. Details: 524-3506.

■ **YWCA Health and Community Education**: drop-in classes in dance, fitness, yoga, martial arts and more; University YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way; 848-6370; \$8-10.

Lecture/workshop

■ The **Berkeley Camera Club** meets every Tuesday evening, at 7:30 p.m. at the Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda, Berkeley. Share your slides and prints and learn what other photographers are doing. Monthly field trips. Don. 510-525-3565 or www.berkeleycameraclub.org.

■ Tai Chi Chuan and Chi-kung

classes take place at Berkeley Unitarian Church at 7 p.m. on Wednesday evenings and 9 a.m. Saturday mornings at Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists, 1924 Cedar St. All ages and physical conditions are welcome. Practice. Donation: \$65, 2004.

■ The YWCA offers free computer classes. See CALENDAR Page 2.

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Events

Turning Point Career Center. The center outlines the resources available to the public as well as the differences that the center has to offer. A great variety of workshops will be held every Tuesday, at 1:30 p.m. The Turning Point Career Center is located at 2600 Bancroft Way, 848-4444.

Computer applications for the "new" world. Using Windows '95 and Microsoft Office 2000 software, classes include: Access, PowerPoint, Publisher. Class offered: Contra Costa Office of Education, 13925 San Pablo Ave., Suite 111, San Pablo. 424 or www.ccoos.k12.ca.us/rop.

Anonymous: 12-Step. Open every Sunday at 8 p.m. Call 526-5770 for Berkeley location.

Literary events

Kathryn Bunnell, writer and editor, will demonstrate how writers can use their work effectively to reach audiences from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Barnes & Noble Bookstore, 2032 Shattuck Ave. No reservations required. Free parking. Visit the website at www.berkeleywriter.org.

Meetings/lectures

Gray Panthers holds its meeting at 1:30 p.m. Nov. 19, at the Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 4th St. State Assemblywoman Loni Hancock will speak on "Expectations for Budget, Politics and Arnold." For more information, call 848-9636.

Family & Beyond! A family literacy event, takes place from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Friday Nov. 21, at the downtown YIMCA, 2001 Allston Way. The activities feature local professional writers Jean Ellisen, veggie writing contest, silly information tables, music and more information, contact 424-7037 or bwong@baymca.org.

Peace, Madison (Wisconsin), Inc., and the American Service Committee present Vietnamese Mike Boehm speaking at 7 p.m. Nov. 15, Friends Meeting, 2151 Vine St. between Broadway and 16th St. on Nov. 23, Humanist Hall, 1247 Marin Ave. Pay what you can will describe 11 years of the rebirth of hope in My other locations in Vietnam. For information, call 510-548-0496.

Secret from Jews for Jesus at 11 a.m. Nov. 16, at Albany United Church, 1319 Solano Ave. Topic: "How God is Working in Jews." The talk is free and is public. For more information Web site at www.albany-jew.org or call 510-526-6632.

Library, 1247 Marin Ave., poetry events: First Thursdays Open Mike and Featured Poet from 7 to 9 p.m. Second Thursdays are drop-in Poetry Writing for all ages. Second Saturdays are drop-in Poetry Writing for grades 4-8. All three events are ongoing. Light refreshments will be served. Call Julie Winkel 526-5720 ext. 20 for more information.

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Laura Blacona's watercolor and ink paintings express global themes, particularly the role humans have had in destroying the environment. The Oakland artist's work is featured with that of more than 300 other artists from around the country in Celebration of Craftswomen this weekend, Nov. 22-23, and next weekend, Nov. 29-30, at Fort Mason in San Francisco. Admission is \$7 for adults, \$5 for seniors and free for children under 12. Information: 415-383-3470 or www.teamproevent.com.

Storytelling for Adults, a group of storytellers, and listeners, who love to listen to stories, to keep the oral tradition alive, meet from 7 to 8:45 p.m. on the first Thursday each month at the Claremont Branch, Berkeley Public Library, 1940 Benevue, at Ashby. Free. 610-644-6880; or 525-1533.

The Reading Edge is available for public use at the Berkeley Public Library, 2090 Kittredge St. This computer scans printed text and reads it back aloud with a synthesized voice. It's available for anyone with a disability that requires its use to access print material. Users must complete a brief training session before using the Reading Edge; after that, reservations are needed. Call at 644-6648 to set up a training session.

The El Cerrito Toastmasters offers basic public speaking and leadership activities and programs. Speakers of all skill levels are invited to come, observe and participate. Meetings occur every second and fourth Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Mooser Lane. For more information contact Jim Bruce at jim@peachpit.com.

Kol Hadash, the Bay Area's only

Jewish Humanistic Congregation, with more than 110 family members from around the Bay Area, meets on the fourth Friday of each month for a regular Shabbat (Sabbath), every other month on a Saturday for a Family Shabbat. The group holds Sunday school classes two Sundays a month, celebrates all the major Jewish holidays and holds special events from time to time. Location: Albany Community Center, 1249 Marin Ave. 428-1492.

Miscellany

Grizzly Peak Flyfishers, a group dedicated to furthering the sport of fly fishing through education and conservation, holds its monthly meeting at 7 p.m. Nov. 13, at the Kensington Community Center, 59 Arlington Ave. in Kensington. A fly-tying demonstration for beginners will be held at 6:30 p.m. before the meeting. A light dinner will be available for a modest price on a first-come, first-served basis. A talk by a

See CALENDAR, Page A8



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Calendar

FROM PAGE A7

guide on the upper Missouri River about fly fishing in his part of Montana. Expert, beginning and "wannabe" fly fishers are all welcome. For more information, call Richard Orlando at 510-547-8629.

■ **UC Botanical Garden** expert Chris Carmichael, will conduct a walk exploring the garden's rich collection of gymnosperms—a diverse assemblage of cone-bearing plants—10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Nov. 8. This tour will examine familiar cone bearers such as pines and redwoods, in addition to the palm-like cycads and unusual and obscure plants such as ephedra and Welwitschia. Fee \$5; free to members. Space is limited; registration required. Location: UC Botanical Garden, 200 Centennial Drive, Berkeley. Call 510-643-2937 or e-mail janetw@uclink4.berkeley.edu or visit the Web site at www.botanicalgarden.berkeley.edu/.

■ **Lawrence Hall of Science**, presents a Sweet Health Festival from 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 9. Learn about the practical uses of sugar such as disinfecting wounds and re-hydrating tissues. Meet Bob's Mouth and become a Sugar Sleuth as you learn how to stay healthy and enjoy your sugar too with these hands-on activities and demonstrations. Admission: \$18 for adults; \$6.50 for youth 5-18, seniors, and disabled; \$4.50 for children 3-4. Free for children under 3, LHS Members, and full-time UC Berkeley students. Location: LHS is on Centennial Drive - above the UC Berkeley campus and just below Grizzly Peak Blvd. Parking is 50¢ per half hour; \$3 for four hours, and \$5 all day. LHS is accessible by AC Transit and the UC Berkeley Shuttle. General information, call 510-642-5132 or visit the Web site at www.lawrencehallschoolscience.org.

■ **St. John's Prime Timers** in Berkeley offers ongoing classes at 9:30 a.m. Tuesdays at St. John's Presbyterian Church, 2727 College Ave. Classes include exercises, ceramics, copper enameling, woodworking, weaving, creative writing, and tap dancing (Thursdays). New members are always welcome, especially seniors' over 50. Call 845-6830 for more information.

■ The Center for Independent Living announces its newly created **Asian Outreach Program** to assist Asian individuals with disabilities, particularly new immigrants. Providing services and advocacy in Cantonese, Vietnamese, and English, program staff are culturally sen-

sitive and knowledgeable of community and government service available to individuals with disabilities. For more information, call CIL at 510-763-9999.

■ **Friendship Circle**, a Jewish club for older adults, meet 11:30 to 1:30 p.m. Wednesdays, at the Oakland Senior Center, 200 Grand Ave. The club is an outreach program of Berkeley Richmond Jewish Community Center. Activities include day trips, Jewish holiday celebrations, theater outings, entertainment, speaker and much more. Call Maria at 848-0237 ext. 115 for details.

■ **Improve your speaking skills** by attending **Berkeley Communicators' Toastmasters** meetings, the first and third Wednesdays each month at 7:15 a.m. at Vault's Cafe, 3250 Adeline St. Call 527-2337 for more information.

■ **The Berkeley Camera Club** meets Tuesday evenings 7:30 p.m. at the Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda. Share your slides and prints and learn what other photographers are doing. Monthly field trips. For more details call Don at 525-3565.

■ **Disabled American Veterans** Chapter 25 meets on the third Tuesday of the month. The evening begins with a no host dinner and fellowship at 7 p.m. at 2068 Center St. A short business meeting follows at 8 p.m. at 1931 Center St., the Veterans Memorial Building. Price: \$3. Women who have had relatives in the US Military are invited to attend and join the auxiliary. For more details call R. DeRiti, Cmdr. D.A.V. Chapter 25, 916-372-8364.

■ The YWCA offers free orientations at its **Turning Point Career Center**. The orientations outline the resources available to the public and the great variety of workshops held every Tuesday, 1:30 p.m. The Turning Point Career Center is located at 2600 Bancroft Way. For more information, call 848-6370.

■ **The Berkeley Avatar Metaphysics Toastmasters** Club meet on the first and third Thursdays, from 6:15 to 7:30 p.m., at 2515 Hillegass Ave. Public speaking skills and metaphysics come together. For details, call 869-2547 or 643-7645.

■ **The Kensington Senior Activity Center** meets on Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Arlington Community

Church, 52 Arlington Ave. The center's community program of life-long learning is presented by the West Contra Costa Adult School. Attend any class or event you choose. Everyone over 55 is welcome. Details: 526-9146 or 547-1969.

■ **Speak Smart! Join Beijing Express Toastmasters**, The Smart Club! Meetings take place each Monday, 6:15 to 7:30 p.m. at Peking Express Restaurant, 2068 Center St. For additional information call 549-9671.

■ **Toastmasters**: Stand up and say what you mean. Come practice with us. Every Tuesday, Noon to 1 p.m. at 700 Heinz Ave. Berkeley. Call 883-6708 for more information.

■ **Joy of Yiddish**: Yiddish conversation at 1 p.m. at the North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst. Call 644-6107 for additional information.

■ **The Berkeley Arthritis Support and Education Group** meets on the second Tuesday of each month (except December) 1 to 2:30 p.m. in the Maffly Auditorium, Herrick Campus, 2001 Dwight Way. For additional information call 204-4503.

■ **Toastmasters on Campus** meet the second and fourth Wednesday of the month from 6:15 to 7:30 p.m. at the English Language Program Building, 2515 Hillegass. Details: 704-1822.

■ **"Voices of Healing"** is a group exploring the psychological and spiritual dimensions of illness and healing. The group meets on the second Friday of each month, 1 to 2:30 p.m. in North Berkeley. Call 528-1235 for more information.

■ **State Health Toastmasters** meet every second, third and fourth Thursday of the month from 12:10-1:10 p.m. at the State Health Building, 2151 Berkeley Way. Details: 649-7750.

■ **Higher Alignment**: 7 p.m.-9:30 p.m. Mondays; fun, informative seminars creating spiritual partnerships; Feldenkrais Center, 830 Bancroft Way, Berkeley; 415-461-5337; \$20.

■ **Alta Bates Support Groups** - Arthritis Support Group meets the second Tuesday of every month, 1 - 2:30 p.m.; 204-4503. Call for additional special events.

Fiddler

FROM PAGE A1

same time," said Dennehy with characteristic humor. The album, "Like Magic," is listed for sale on the Celtic Web site www.anir.com, though the site says the album is out of stock temporarily. For people who want the album: "Call me," Dennehy said.

Dennehy's wife, Mary Ellen Morrin, said her husband's fiddle-playing also led to their marriage. Dennehy spotted her leaving a movie theater and recognized her from when she played flute in public.

Dennehy asked her if she wanted to play music with him, and they did so the very next day.

Morrin recalled how her husband co-founded the Irish Fiddle Club in the Bay Area in 1987, giving lessons to people, having musical get-togethers and putting out a club newsletter.

"He was totally driven to play Irish fiddle and any opportunity he could (play) he took it," she said.

In the non-musical interludes, Dennehy earned a journalism degree from San Francisco State University in 1985.

He decided he wanted to be a firefighter after learning about an opening through a friend in the Oakland Fire Department. Dennehy joined the Albany Fire Department in 1991. He's an engineer and a paramedic.

Albany Fire Captain John Weitzel says Dennehy is a "worldly" guy who loves to travel and is one of the department's better cooks.

Indeed, Dennehy has traveled extensively. In one of his trips, he biked through Croatia, and performed there in the spring of 2002. He likes to meet people throughout the world because he finds them endlessly fascinating and likes to keep his mind working, he says.

"In general, he's a very nice guy," said Morrin. "He wants to do something to help the world with great interest."

Reach Alan Lopez at 510-547-8629 or at alopez1@cctimes.com.

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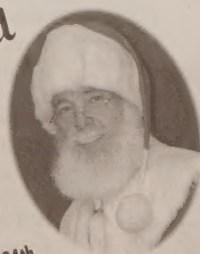
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Surplus

FROM PAGE A1

exhaustive analysis of district accounts. It turned out that certain accounts payable had been overstated in prior years, leading to the windfall.

For a district deemed unable to pay future bills by the Alameda County Office of Education less than two years ago, the money is a definite turnaround.

"It's nice to know that we've fi-

nally moved through cleaning out all the drawers," Walden said. "That's a really good thing and certainly it means we're in a more stable position. And if it gives us the ability to avoid cuts next year or reduce costs over the long-term, then that's a lovely thing to do."

Walden, an economist, is keen on saving the \$100,000 surplus to help the district weather what is already shaping up to be a dire budget year in 2004-05.

But there are other ideas.

Some parents want the money for the 10th grade class, which lost

out on class-size reduction this year when the program was moved to ninth-grade English.

"It's certainly something that would be an appropriate use of monies and a one-time use," said parent Charlie Blanchard.

Others are gearing up to promote their personal favorites, from band and drama to reading and math. "We're trying to get away from a competitive approach to this," said parent Merry Selk. "It doesn't really serve us to be fighting over scraps."

"One of the problems is that

everybody's intention is really good," Selk added. "Everybody's talking about trying to take care of basic needs. There isn't enough money to do much, so people are hoping for little bits. The question is, what little bits will be made available."

Walden said a decision will not be made until at least mid-December, after the school board reviews this year's interim budget report.

Reach Kara J. Shire at 510-262-2798 or kshire@ctimes.com.

Munoz

FROM PAGE A1

"As a historian, I think now in our public schools we don't get too much critical history," Muñoz said. "Speaking to students was my main motivation, not because I had a part to play in (the exhibit) — although I feel very privileged to have been part of it."

Other civil-rights activists honored in the exhibit are UC Berkeley professor Robert Allen of San Francisco, Philip Hutchings, Frances M. Beal, and Yuri Kochiyama of Oakland, Rev. Cecil Williams and Janet Clinger of San Pablo, Wazir Peacock of San Rafael, Jon Fromer of Mill Valley and Bettie Mae Fikes of Cerritos.

Like the other 12 activists, Muñoz, who was born in 1939 in El Paso, Texas, to a Mexican work-

ing-class family, has a long history of involvement in the civil rights struggle.

Muñoz' life of activism began in earnest after he served in the army in the early 1960s. After enrolling in college on the GI Bill, he became involved in three movements: protest against the Vietnam war, Cesar Chavez' United Farm Workers, and the Mexican-American civil rights cause.

Inspired by the civil rights movement in the South, Muñoz made a connection between the struggles of blacks and Mexican Americans.

"We (Mexican Americans) needed to create our own movement, and do something about our own condition," he said.

In 1968, he organized a nonviolent protest against racism involving a student walkout of 10,000 in East Los Angeles.

Muñoz and 12 other organiz-

ers — who became known as the "LA 13" — were indicted for conspiracy and for disrupting the Los Angeles school system. With the help of the ACLU, Muñoz was declared innocent by the state Supreme Court, which ruled that the protest was protected under free speech.

After his court victory, he went on to earn a bachelor's degree in political science from Cal State University, Los Angeles, in 1967, and a doctorate in government from Claremont Graduate School in 1973.

Muñoz, who began teaching at UC Berkeley in 1976, has been in-

cluded in numerous projects, including starting the first Mexican-American studies department in the nation in 1968 at CSULA, and serving on the board of the ACLU of Northern California.

He is currently part of Veterans for Peace, a national group opposed to the war in Iraq.

"It's OK to be an activist," he said. "Activism is as American as apple pie. It's an embodiment of our Constitution."

Reach Ana Facio Contreras at 510-339-4506 or acontreras@ctimes.com.

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Extend

Mark Friedman and Gina Brusatori, based on a recommendation from the city's redevelopment staff to end the agreement with Oewel because of the problems he has had living up to its terms. Among those problems are Oewel's financial documents, which the staff said he is unable to finance

the estimated \$85 million project. Oewel and the city signed the exclusive negotiating rights agreement in July. It guarantees that the city will not negotiate with others to develop or sell a parcel of land it owns on the 11600 block of San Pablo Avenue. It is a part of the "Mayfair" block bounded by Knott Avenue, Kearney Street, Cutting Boulevard and San Pablo Avenue. Oewel's plan calls for the Mayfair block to be used primarily as replacement BART parking; a key component of his

plan. Brusatori said the agency would be doing a disservice to itself and the community if it granted the extension. She accused Oewel of lying because he stated there was no pending or past litigation against him — information contrary to what the agency staff believes. "Why are we even sitting here talking about doing anything with an applicant who has lied?" Brusatori asked. In response to their concerns about financing the project, on

Oct. 20 Oewel told redevelopment staff that Orange County-based developer Shea Properties — which has \$2 billion in annual revenues — was considering financing nearly all of the project but that the firm wanted 75 days to see if the project is feasible. That extension needed approval from the Redevelopment Agency. After the meeting, Oewel said he's done everything asked for by the redevelopment agency. He said a pending lawsuit had been already been settled and it

was not "material" to the project. "I think I've done everything requested under the terms of the ENRA," Oewel said. "I think it's a matter of debate. I don't agree with staff on that." Abelson appeared frustrated by delays on the development, which has been in the works in

some form since 1993. "At this point I'm willing to wait 75 days but I will not do that again, is how I feel about it," said Abelson. "Things have to change and change substantially." Reach Alan Lopez at 510-243-3578 or alopez1@cctimes.com.

Budget

Albany reported that Albany's fiscal year 2004 budget is in the range of \$200,000. The city is pending an \$80 million in general fund revenue that has accumulated over the years. Albany is expected to be headed in the direction of "Councilman Adams said. Should the state fulfill its promise to backfill Albany for the rest of the year, he said, "We may be faced with holding on the reserve" or some other way to make

According to Adams, the vehicle licensing fee comprised 9 percent of Albany's annual budget in past years, about \$960,000. Despite the setbacks, Albany is faring much better than its neighboring cities of El Cerrito and Berkeley, Adams said, both of which may face deficits because of the cut to the car tax. "We're just holding on and waiting," he said.

Council roundup

In other business, the City Council approved the redirection of funds in the city's five-year Cable Television Programming Plan to allow Albany's Cable Access Channel 29 to award grants to individuals and groups who wish

to create community video programs.

The proposal also allows the local access channel to purchase additional equipment for video editing and cablecasting public events and meetings.

Council members also unanimously approved the city's 2004 Goals, Objectives and Work Plan. Specific projects on this list of "things to do" include acquiring a Veterans Building, creating a

bike path along Cerrito Creek, establishing additional ballparks, acquiring Pierce Street Park from Caltrans and amending zoning laws to regulate second-story additions and protect homeowners' views.

The specifics of these projects will be addressed in future City Council meetings, and an estimated timeline was included in the plan.

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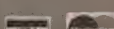
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Agent: Joy Bryden, Wells & Bennett Realtors, 510-531-7000, ext. 218, or joy@ebdri.com.

Giveaway

FROM PAGE B1

"We saw this as a way we could raise money for something we wanted to do for a long time. If we are successful, we could conceivably raise more than if we were to sell (the house)," Nancy Kwiatkowski said.

The homeowners plan to use the \$1 million to store their belongings, purchase a motor home, travel the country and produce a documentary film, which Kwiatkowski said is the real motivation behind the contest.

Homeowners and contestants might perceive the contest as a win-win situation. One contestant could win a home in California for a mere \$200, and the Kwiatkowskis could end up "selling" their home for \$650,000 above market value.

A similar essay contest in Colorado features a 32.4-acre ranch in the San Juan National Forest as the grand prize. Homeowners Jerry and Melanie Shane created the contest earlier this year and aim to collect 2,500 essays, each with a \$100 entry fee. The appraised value of the ranch is about \$300,000, according to Jerry Shane.

The Colorado Attorney General's office makes no representations as to the legality of the contest, according to Deputy Attorney General Ken Lane.

"Our only comment is that home essay contests are not per se illegal in Colorado, but just as with any business or skill contest venture, there is always the potential for fraud," Lane wrote in an e-mail.

Homeowners and contestants might perceive the contest as a win-win situation. One contestant could win a home in California for a mere \$200, and the Kwiatkowskis could end up "selling" their home for \$650,000 above market value.

He said the bottom line is "buyer/contestant beware."

Indeed, the Shanes have received a lot of cynical inquiries about their contest because of some questionable holes in the contest rules. For example, if the homeowners decide to cancel the contest because they don't receive enough entries to pay off the mortgage, they say they will refund applicants' contest entry fees, less 15 percent for contest expenses.

Hypothetically, the Shanes could accept 4,000 entries at \$100 each, cancel the contest and still have \$60,000 and their home. Without contest regulation, contestants have no way of verifying how many entries the homeowners received.

The couple addressed skepticism about the essay contest by posting their picture on the contest Web site to show that they are "real people." They also posted critics' comments that point out the contest's pitfalls, along with their replies to the critic's accusations.

"Call me, talk to me, send me an e-mail. We'll talk back and forth, person-to-person," Shane said when asked how he might try to convince someone to enter who thinks the contest is a scam.

Nancy Kwiatkowski said the 1996 movie "Spitfire Grill" sparked the idea for her and her husband to create an essay contest to giveaway their home. A character in the movie holds a \$100-per-entry essay contest to find a new owner for the restaurant the movie is titled after.

Each entry for the California home contest must consist of a 300 to 500-word essay that answers the question, "What person or event has inspired a turning point in your life?"

The Shanes' contest requires a \$100 entry fee and a 200-word-or-less essay describing why the contestant would like to win the home in Colorado.

"We thought it was a novel way to sell the property. We didn't really want to shell out the percentage for the real estate commission if we didn't have to," Shane said.

Go to www.inman.com for more real estate news.

Looking for opportunities in the bond market

The stock market offers a great example of the ever-changing dynamic of risk and reward, but it is not the only place to invest your money. In light of recent market conditions, many investors may be shying away from stocks in general and looking to the bond market as another alternative for their investment dollars. However, because of the many varieties of debt issues available, you may wonder which ones are right for you. One way to keep your money close to home — quite literally — is to invest in municipal bonds.

What are Municipal Bonds? State and local governments issue municipal bonds when they need to raise money for public projects. Whether it is building a new school for your children or street improvements across town, the money generated from municipal bonds is generally used to fund a wide variety of maintenance and other projects that are typically the responsibility of state and local governments.

As with any bond, you essentially make a loan to the issuer—in this case the state or local government — and you receive interest payments on that loan in addition to the repayment of your original investment if you hold the bond until maturity.

Why are Municipal Bonds Different? Unlike other bonds, the interest earned from municipal bonds is exempt from federal taxes. Additionally, depending on where you live, if you buy bonds from a governing authority in your home state, your earnings may be exempt from state and even local taxes as well.

Keep in mind that only the interest is tax-free; you may have to pay capital gains tax if you sell the bond before maturity and make a profit. Although interest rates may be lower for municipal bonds than for taxable bonds, when you figure in your tax savings you may be getting a greater return on your investment.

What are Some of the Risks? One potential drawback of owning municipal bonds is known as reinvestment risk, or call risk. This means that you may be forced to reinvest your money into lower-yielding bonds in the event your original bond is called before its maturity date.

This usually happens when interest rates are falling, so even though current levels are very low, it is something to be aware of. That is why it is always a good idea to familiarize yourself with any call provisions a bond may have.

Another possible risk with municipal bonds — is interest rates become more volatile, the value of lower bonds down.

But if you plan to hold until maturity, price should not have any impact on your investment. Despite that will occur, once you reaches maturity you your full principal to you.

Municipal bonds are an official investment for investors. Your financial advisor will be able to help you if they are right for you. To learn more about the advantages offered by bonds and the benefits in general, schedule an appointment today.

Leila Gough is an Advisor. President Investments & Securities, member SIPC. She can be reached at 8060.

Home defects trigger negotiations

■ What should you ask the seller to pay for?

INMAN NEWS FEATURES

In a home purchase transaction, almost everything is negotiable—the price you pay; when you close the sale; the time periods for satisfying contingencies; who pays which closing costs; and who pays for defects discovered during inspections.

Buyers are usually eager for the sellers to pay for as many of the costs associated with the purchase as possible. Likewise, sellers prefer buyers to pay their fair share, at least. In reality, a contract that's negotiated with an equitable sharing of costs is usually one that will be mutually acceptable to both parties.

HOUSE HUNTING TIP: Before you start negotiating, find out what's customary in the area where you want to buy. Law rarely dictates who pays for which closing costs. But local custom often prevails. Although your aim is to negotiate the best deal possible, your initial offer should be appealing enough to the sellers that they are encouraged to accept it, or at least counter it. In most cases, it's best to follow local custom regarding the sharing of closing costs.

For example, if there is a local transfer tax that's customarily split 50-50 between the buyer and seller, follow local protocol and

offer to share this expense with the seller. Sellers and their agents can become suspicious when an offer is presented with closing costs shared in an unusual manner. How closing costs are shared can vary significantly from one locale to the next.

The purchase contract encompasses all the terms and conditions that will apply to the transaction. Ideally, as many of the cost-sharing issues as possible should be incorporated into the purchase agreement. This will reduce the likelihood of future squabbles.

Some sellers do pre-sale inspections before putting their homes on the market. If so, you may be able to review a current pest control ("termite") report done by a reputable contractor before you make an offer. This way, you can resolve who pays for the inspection and recommended work when you make the offer.

It's difficult to resolve all inspection-related issues when an offer is made. Usually buyers do their own inspections. These inspections can reveal defects that were unknown to the buyers when they made their offer.

Before you start negotiating, find out what's customary in the area where you want to buy. Law rarely dictates who pays for which closing costs. But local custom often prevails.

The purchase contract specifies who pays for such defects. For example, the contract may say that all systems

See HYMER Page

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Silver lining: loss of car allows Anet to replenish supplies

When in April 2002, Anet lost her car in a series of true events, she was left with a real estate agent's mechanical skills. Anet's car was the one she stocks the car with everything she possibly need for listings. When the car was stolen a few days later (the car we drove to work on), Anet well-considered the loss. And, although she was sad, she pined for her tools and supplies. She never got the car or the tools, which was sad, but she gave Anet the chance to redo her car. For days she perfected her car. She must buy again. She bought new pliers of various sizes, screwdrivers, a wrench and a plumber's wrench, a tape measure, a utility knife, flashlight, picture hangers, electrical tape, and a few wood screws. The electrical tape is used for the door locks she wants to be light. She is also light on the tape, she recently exchanged to me, is black. This is what she has learned that if she has white tape against white cars, agents ignore it. Some agents read and look that lock that light switch off in the tape. Black tape how- ever, commands attention and compliance with her.

Although she doesn't carry it, Anet knows she'll be right for a specific task such as smoke detectors, she has in the car trunk a portable screwdriver. She refers to it as "my DeWalt." She said she has used possession of hours of seeing a contractor using one of his own. By what this powerful, light tool is capable of, she got into the car and sped off to buy one for herself. Anet's collection of light bulbs is not as big as at times: more 60 watt, but also a few 75 watt, and at least one 100 watt. It's the "sixties" she needed most often, and Anet uses one, she is about replacing it. Not that she needs is anathema.

As a matter of fact, because she had switched cars and she had the light bulb stash, Anet found herself in a "hundred" to light a stairwell. It was Sunday house day and people were arriving. They were about to go to those dark stairs. Anet, what was Anet to do? She was considering the dis- tance to the nearest retail source for bulbs when an agent

friend fortuitously arrived at the front door. Anet leaped to greet her: "You're an agent. You must

switched. She's been touting Teflon to anyone who will listen ever since.

Anet brings with her, and puts to frequent good use, Teflon spray in a can. It is very effective on balky door locks. She used to swear by WD-40, but due to a fascinating conversation with a locksmith (quite a bit more fascinating to Anet than to me), she switched.

have one 100 watt light bulb in your trunk, right?" The friend nodded that indeed she did, and the two of them went outside to get it. Problem solved. I guess every agent must always carry light bulbs.

Toilet paper, too. There is an obvious need for toilet paper and, especially in vacant houses, seldom any to be found. Paper towels, a wedge-shaped door stop, Windex and Soft Scrub are in our car as well. And — these are for me — a garden weeder and a pair of hand pruners, plus a large garbage bag — are always with us. This is because, whenever there is a lull in activities, if, for instance, Anet is talking to someone or is fiddling endlessly with a lock, I start weeding whatever garden plot or path is nearby. Sometimes I deadhead plants. I can't seem to help myself.

Anet brings with her, and puts to frequent good use, Teflon spray in a can. It is very effective on balky door locks. She used to swear by WD-40, but due to a fascinating conversation with a locksmith (quite a bit more fascinating to Anet than to me), she

There are timers in the car, little ones bought at Home Depot, used for automatically lighting lamps in vacant houses. She puts them in every room that does not have an overhead fixture so that when it starts to get dusky, lights will come on. (I do not grasp how timers are set, and am forever switching lamps on or off at the regular switch. I am therefore pleased that Anet takes charge of this part of real estate.)

She has lock boxes, too: the electronic type supplied by the multiple listing people, and also mechanical ones with push buttons. The first are, of course, for agents to use when showing a house. They're pretty nifty. The agent inserts a "key" (it looks sort of like a fat business card), punches his own code into the lockbox (which is recorded and can be retrieved by the agent who owns the lock box), and the

key box opens. The agent then uses the key, later replacing it in the box for use by someone else.

The other type of lock box, purchased from a locksmith shop, we use for workmen. When we need to get painters, stagers and repairmen inside a house, we don't have to meet them there or provide each one with his own key. Instead we put a punch-combination lock box on the property and tell our workmen what the combo is.

There are, at times, signs in our car trunk. In the old days, agents struggled to erect their own sign supports in rock hard dirt. Nowadays, real estate companies contract with a sign post

service to dig the holes, put up the posts, and hang the signs. We, however, have a clear plastic sign which scratches easily, so we hang our own. We also put up the "riders" on the post cross arm, the signs that say Pending Sale and Open Sunday. (Have you noticed that you hardly ever see a Sold sign? This is because by the time a property is really sold, it's time to take the sign down.)

We also carry Open House sandwich signs, but only on the days we are holding a house open. The rest of the time, they're stored in my garage.

All in all, there is quite a lot of stuff in the trunk, but Anet is very



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organized, and she takes pride in cleanly and tidily packaging all we could want for. I must remember to ask agent friends to tell me what they've got in their car trunks. That would be interesting

Pat Talbert and Anet Tarpo are residential real estate agents who can be reached at 653-2050 and at www.tarpoandtbert.com.

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PAGE B1
ing offices for her small real estate called Berkeley Hills Realty and her husband hired Leonard Segal to renovate the interior into a small real estate office with an open floor plan. The work on 1714 Solano Avenue took about six months to complete. Patricia told me that the only reason they made to the original plan (which the restaurant had used significantly) was to end up on the front porch for use as an office. Nancy Mueller, one of her partners, said the office conversion was great. Clients got the feeling of being in an intimate, warm, historic space, which just happened. There were a few desks placed where agents could make appointments and meet people. In 1984, the company Architectural Heritage Society presented Berkeley Hills with an award for "An outstanding restoration and renovation of a historic building." Patricia has been often aesthetic elements to the Berkeley Hills office in recent years. Robert and Nancy Mueller's husband, Eric, is a new trestle and show- room display board to stand in front of the office, which were in the Craftsman style to blend with the historic building. Patricia, a career craftsman Eric, created a hand forged iron railing for the front stairs in period Craftsman style. Patricia, in her next column, I will discuss the reuse of some older, Victorian and Edwardian Era houses and other businesses in Berkeley and Oakland.

Wilson can be reached at 525-3353 or by e-mail at carla@higgins.com

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ARTHUR MCLAUGHLIN & ASSOCIATES

Staged Bay Area homes sell faster, for asking price or higher

ARTHUR MCLAUGHLIN & ASSOCIATES

With the traditional home buying season coming to a close, sellers and agents need all the tools available to them to insure a quick and successful sale.

According to a recent survey of Bay Area real estate agents, staging a home greatly improves

the owner's chances of selling their residence in a shorter amount of time and with multiple offers at asking price or higher.

Staging, a term used in the real estate industry, is the art of temporarily redecorating a residence or condominium with the intent to sell it. It is done with the

potential buyer's taste and style in mind, in other words: interior design for the widest market appeal.

Among the results of the survey:

■ One hundred percent of the real estate agents surveyed were familiar with the art of staging

■ One hundred percent of the real estate agents surveyed said that using a professional stager gave their clients a better chance of selling their home for asking price or higher.

Of those real estate agents who hire professional staggers:

■ Ninety-seven percent said

they would recommend a stager to their clients

■ Ninety-four percent said that staging increased the sales price of the home

■ Ninety-four percent said that staging decreased the amount of time that the home remained on the market.

Award-winning stager Arthur McLaughlin has been staging homes for over 20 years. "We know, by speaking to clients, that the majority decide to purchase within minutes of entering a home. First impressions are of great importance," he said.

Managing your home as an investment

BY LAURA C. STEAGALL-CISSELL

CORRESPONDENT

Building wealth in real estate

Diligent investors nurture their portfolios of stocks, bonds and mutual funds. But many of the nation's 74 million homeowners do not give the same care to managing what is typically their largest investment — their home.

While stock prices are struggling to come back after being down 35 percent from three years ago, home prices nationwide have surged 25 percent. With mortgage rates recently hitting a 40-year low, many people have turned to real estate as a safe haven for their funds.

However, as we have learned from recent experience in the stock market, just when an asset seems most invincible, it may be most vulnerable.

Here are some tips and tools to help consumers best use their valuable real estate assets and manage their homes as investments.

Owning a home has been the single most effective way for many Americans to increase their net worth. To build your wealth in real estate, be sure to consider:

Taking advantage of tax breaks — You can deduct property taxes and the interest on your mortgage. When you sell your home, you can exclude up to \$500,000 in capital gains from taxable income if you are married and up to \$250,000 if you are single, as long as you live in the home for least two years before selling.

Borrowing money to pay down debt — With more than a dozen interest rate cuts from the Federal Reserve over the past eighteen months, the cost of bor-

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Getting started: some staging tips from the experts

ARTHUR MCLAUGHLIN & ASSOCIATES

Want to sell your house for the largest amount of money in the shortest amount of time? Consider using a professional interior designer or a "stager" to help decorate, furnish and furnish your house.

Here are a few tips from Arthur McLaughlin & Associates to help get started:

One of the most important things is light. Use the highest wattage possible in each light fixture. Also, make it easy to show the house by placing lights on a timer.

■ Remove extra photographs and excessive decorative objects from tabletops.

■ Repainting walls, sanding floors, and pulling up outdated

wall-to-wall carpet will add new life to dreary rooms. This updates your entire residence and raises its market value.

■ Updating the front facade of your residence may be as easy as adding flats of blooming flowers into your existing landscape, creating a fresh market appeal.

■ Stay away from cold and unflattering colors like gray and olive green. Try using more subtle colors like peach, cream, or beige.

■ Keep carpets pale. A too-bright or trendy wall-to-wall carpet can date a house.

■ Be careful not to over crowd rooms with excessive amounts of

furniture. Move out unnecessary pieces.

■ Dining rooms can be upgraded by focusing the viewer's attention on a dramatically set dining room table.

■ Using tall interior greenery will add height and drama to any

room, bringing it to life.

■ Transform a dated and attractive sofa by adding decorative pillows and throw

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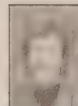
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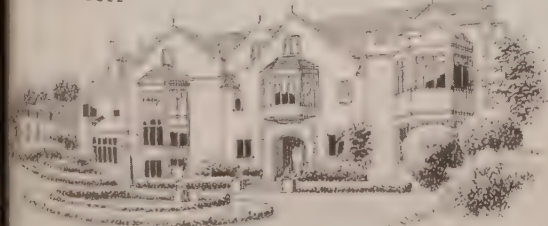
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1320 Poe Street, Berkeley
Open Sunday 2-4:30 p.m.



Set well back from the street off a common green, you will find this two-story east coast style brown shingle. Built in 1995, this home has wonderful architectural details; high ceilings, great natural light, energy efficient contemporary floor plan, living room and dining room open to private garden. Three bedrooms, one and a half baths, kitchen with views of garden, formal dining room, living room with fireplace, laundry room and extra storage. This one is an easy choice!

Offered at \$489,000

Ann Arriola Plant

510-527-2700 x27

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1577 Solano Ave.
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MOVE IN BEFORE CHRISTMAS!

RIDGEMONT CHARMER
OPEN SUNDAY
2-4:30 p.m.

NEW PRICE!



6218 View Crest Drive, Oakland

Lovely two-story Contemporary features a living room with fireplace, a large formal dining area, U-shaped kitchen with a walk-in pantry and serving bar, an informal dining area, family room with fireplace, a huge adjoining enclosed sun room, half bath and a laundry room which accesses the three car garage. Three bedrooms, including the master suite with its deluxe bath, and a hallway full bath are on the upper level. Special interior appointments, great curb appeal and a large fenced backyard and patio identify this unmistakably as a high quality home.

Offered at \$725,000



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2 Tunnel Road, Berkeley

Barbara Hopper

(510) 845-0211 Voice Mail (510) 986-9553
Virtual Tour: www.prurealty.com/barbarahopper

marvin gardens
real estate



Kensington, 119 Kenyon \$635,000
Spacious, beautifully maintained 3+ bedroom, 2 bath, split-level home with cathedral ceilings, random-plank hardwood floors, large master suite and great floor plan! Tons of storage, wonderful "plus" room perfect for office. Lovely Bay & Mt. Tam views.
Open Sunday 2-4
Todd Hodson 559-2915

PINOLE 3386 Diablo Circle \$489,000
Great house for your family in the finest neighborhood. 4 bedrooms, 2.5 bathrooms, 2100 sq. ft. Excellent floor plan, updated kitchen with breakfast area, 1 living room w. cathedral ceilings, spacious backyard, 2 car garage.
Open Sunday 2-4
Olga Stepanyan 559-2921



Richmond Annex, 5440 Columbia \$385,000
Sparkling, immaculate 2 bedroom, 1 bath beauty. Refinished hardwood floors, living room with fireplace and recessed lighting room and attractive dining room, dual-pane windows, laundry/utility room, lushly landscaped yard.
Open Sunday 2-5
Bonnie Scott 559-2903

OAKLAND 3206 Hannah #4 \$389,000
Light-filled 4-level loft has striking contemporary architecture & flexible living space. Amazing 360° views from top level. Bright, warm kitchen & living area. Lower level can be great workshop or 2nd BR. opens to outdoor space.
Open Sunday 2-4
Vanessa Timon Smith 559-2932

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REALTY

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www.berkhills.com

View Photo Tours on the Web

336 & 336A Panoramic Way, Berkeley
By Appointment Only

On historic Panoramic Hill, this secluded and private, large and elegant home enjoys extraordinary Bay, city and bridge views. Designed by William Wurster, the home has been extensively updated by the present owners. Wonderful for entertaining, gracious living and working at home. It features a large kitchen, 5 bedrooms including a romantic master bedroom and 2.5 baths. In addition, the lower level, sunny apartment with 2 bdms and 2 baths can be rented or used for guests.

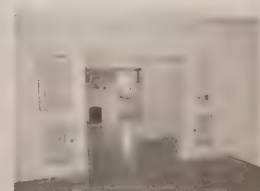
Maya Trilling 524-9888 x18 \$1,750,000



1620 Martin Luther King Jr. Way
Open Sunday, 2:00 - 4:00

Just Listed! Spacious, charming older 2 bdrm home has beautiful hardwood floors, coved ceilings, big backyard. Needs your TLC. Close to transportation, Gourmet Ghetto.

Jean Auka 524-9888 x16 \$410,000 As is



"The Parkwoods"

220 Caldecott Lane, #105

Open Sunday, 2:00 - 4:30

New Listing! Stunning, sun-filled "Golden Gate" 1-bedroom corner unit in sought-after, newer complex. Several upgrades in this gorgeous unit including hardwood floors, Berber carpet, top-of-the-line appliances, closet organizer, built-ins, and soft designer colors throughout. Truly special!

Denise Milburn 524-9888 x 35 \$299,000



"We want to thank you again for being the fantastic Real Estate Agent that you are. You were great to work with the whole way through, and because of your professionalism and determination, we now live in a wonderful house that we love!"

—E. S. & C. S., El Cerrito

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Investment

FROM PAGE B4

rowing money against the equity in your home has become considerably cheaper.

Last year alone, Americans withdrew nearly \$330 billion of home equity via home equity loans, lines of credit and cash-out refinancing. Replacing high-interest credit card debt with a home equity line of credit can not only lower the interest you pay, it may also get you a tax deduction. On the other hand, using home equity to finance living beyond your means, is a worrisome trend.

Refinancing your loan — To decide whether refinancing makes sense for you and when to do it, first you must find out how much you would save on your monthly payments. Generally, you save approximately \$30 for each half-percentage point drop in interest rates on a \$100,000 loan. Ultimately, you want to lower the rate, lower your payments and pay off your mortgage sooner.

Paying off principal — To get your mortgage paid off by the time you retire, you also might want to make extra principal payments. By adding \$100 or \$200 to each monthly mortgage check, you could save thousands of dollars in interest and pay off your loan years earlier. To figure out if this strategy is right for you, consult your financial advisor. You should consider not only the interest rate on your mortgage but also your tax situation and what else you might do with the money.

Balancing financial and real estate markets

Is it time to mortgage your house to invest in stocks? This strategy makes sense theoretically, based on the idea that it is best to borrow money cheaply and invest it in something expected to earn a better rate of return over a long period of time. However, it involves substantial risks if you have to repay the loan earlier than you ex-

pected or if you want to move into a new home.

If history is any indication, the odds are that you are better off investing in a stock portfolio than in real estate over the long haul. For example, the S&P 500 added 8.5% from 1928 - 1958 — its worst 30-year period. This is still more than double the after-tax borrowing cost on today's average 30-year mortgage.

However, while stocks have significantly outperformed real estate in the long term, you do not want to put too much money into one single investment strategy. A well-rounded and diversified portfolio, including a combination of stocks, bonds, mutual funds and real estate investments, is still your best bet to limit long-term risk.

Investing in home improvements

Another consideration for homeowners is investing in home improvements. According to the American Express Home Improvement Index, Americans plan to spend an average of nearly \$3,800 this year on home improvements, up from \$2,900 in 2000.

When prioritizing your remodeling wish list, first consider the projects that would bring your home up to the average for your neighborhood. For example, if you have a two-bedroom home in a neighborhood where three is the norm, a bedroom addition may not be a losing proposition. Homes that are worth more than 120 percent of the neighborhood average typically don't benefit with large returns on their renovation investment.

Before investing in home improvements, take a long, hard look at your budget and decide if you can truly afford the renovation. A general rule of thumb is that investors shouldn't remodel if it

means tapping into retirement funds or if the project would divert money that should be going into other long-term investing goals. Furthermore, homeowners should generally limit their borrowing to no more than 80% of their home's value, including their mortgages. Meet with a qualified financial advisor to develop and implement a strategy for your real estate investments as part of your personal economy.

This information is provided for informational purposes only. The information is intended to be generic in nature and should not be applied or relied upon in any particular situation without the advice of your tax, legal and/or your financial advisor. The views expressed may not be suitable for every situation. Investments are not guaranteed and are subject to investment risk including the possible loss of principal. American Express Financial Advisors Inc. Member NASD. American Express Company is separate from American Express Financial Advisors Inc. and is not a broker-dealer.

Laura C. Steagall-Cissell is a financial advisor with American Express Financial Advisors in Walnut Creek. She can be reached at 925-476-4726.

Taking a look around the East Bay real estate community

News and information for and about the area real estate community and affiliated industries.

FOR THE PUBLIC

Loan Forecast

According to the California Association of Realtors mortgage bankers forecast originations to continue near record pace. Refinancing is expected to decline. The long term forecast for the US economy and the housing-finance market for 2004 and 2005 predicts strong economic growth. Single-family home production and purchases will remain robust. The multi-family residential and commercial sector should pick up in the second half of 2004 and be strong through 2005.

Home Keys

"Keys To Homeownership" is a workshop presented by Bette Barr of Alameda Realty and Anton Mares of Chase Manhattan Mortgage. Learn about no down payment programs, maximizing your

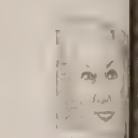
buying power and strategies for homebuying. To register for a future workshop call 510-918-9576 or e-mail AntonH.Mares@JPMChase.com.

Senior Care Guides

Georgia Richardson of Richardson Real Estate Services is offering New Lifestyles, an area guide to senior residences and care options. Guides are available for the San Francisco Bay or the Sacramento/North Bay areas. To obtain a complimentary issue, contact Richardson at 510-569-3499.

Building Education Center

If you're handy around the house or want to learn how, the Building Education Center in Berkeley is the place for you. BEC provides ongoing classes, lectures and events for the experienced and those new to remodeling and renovation. There are evening classes on weekdays



BOBBIE REID

and daytime classes on weekends. Topics cover concrete work, retiling, interior design, electricity, to name a few. You can call the center for information and cost at 510-525-7610 or at bldgeduc.org.

Workshop presented by Karen Ward of

- RED

Quick Over-The-Net Pre-Approval

visit:
www.EastBayHomeLoan.com

Agent: HerMax

Happy Thanksgiving



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Rita Smith Realtor
(510) 525-3681



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685 Island Drive, Alameda

hbrhomes.com

El Sobrante

\$578,000 34 La Paloma Ct. Mediterranean built in 2002. 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 2 car garage. Large lot, cul-de-sac location. Donnaluc 510-814-4826

Oakland

\$210,000 877 42nd St. One of the original live/work properties. Living area above a former business. Corner location with many possible uses. Jeff 510-814-4885

\$285,000 684 42nd St. Cute 1 bedroom, 1 bath single level bungalow with yard and garage. Formal dining room could be used as a second bedroom. Steve 510-814-4888

\$369,000 5427 Brookdale Ave. Split level 2bd bungalow with finished basement. Maryann 510-814-4888

\$399,000 2865 Morcom Ave., Maxwell Park Home. 1-level, 3-bd, 1.5ba, family room, formal dining room, eat-in kitchen. Tere 510-814-4840.

\$449,500 2331 23rd Ave. Duplex: both 2 BD, 1 BA units. Very bright, Pergo floors, new carpet. 510-814-4892

\$548,000 13383 Campus Dr. Choice lot with panoramic view in the prestigious area in the Oakland Hills. Connie 510-814-4814

Hayward

\$339,000 2213 Oak Creek Pl. Spacious 2 bedroom and 2 bath home with finished basement, laundry room, and 2-car garage. Community pool and tennis court. Jane 510-814-4810

\$343,000 2196 Oak Creek Place. 2+ bedroom, 2.5 bath townhouse in park-like setting! Den/office on Main level. Jane 510-814-4810

Montclair

\$749,000 152 Glenwood Glade. Wonderful Tudor home in new location! 2bd, 1.5ba, large front porch with French doors to deck. Detached 2-car garage with office above. Creek in backyard w/ hot tub. Karin 510-814-4878

San Leandro

\$295,000 2511 Gallatin Dr. 3 bedroom, 1 bath bright home, inside laundry, dryer and detached garage & carport. Tere 510-514-4840.

\$675,000 2146 Harborview Dr. Beautiful 3bd, 2.5ba, 1 car garage, views of the bay. Family friendly. Tere 510-814-4840.

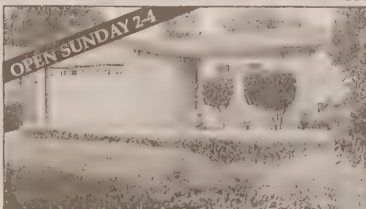
San Lorenzo

\$469,000 533 Drew St. Mint 1-level 3bd, 2ba home with granite floors in living room & family room. Marble slab kitchen counter. Dual pane windows. Eunice 510-814-4892

San Francisco

\$339,000 5150 Diamond Blvd. 306 B. Spectacular home with 3 bedrooms & East Bay location. Wood dual pane windows. replace. Chuck 510-814-4847

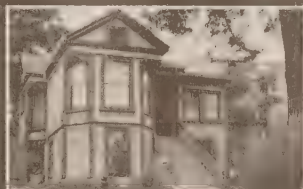
SERENE GARDEN PARADISE IN THE CITY!



641 Yuba Street

Elegant home located in popular Richmond View area, only steps to El Cerrito. Four bedrooms, three baths with home office or in-law setup. Beautifully landscaped yard, completely fenced and private. New remodel. Best buy in the hills! Offered at \$539,900

Call Magany, JD, Broker, Security Pacific Walnut Creek, (925) 974-7635



Beautiful 3/2 Victorian on huge lot!

Charm & room to expand! 3 BD/2BA on a 7320 sq ft. lot. Solid house: new roof, central heat, exterior paint, concrete foundation, updated elec/plumb/H2O heater.

\$379,000!!

3139 Harrison Street: 1st open: Sat & Sun 2-4:00



David Gunderman, Realtor®

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Gallagher & Lindsey, Inc.
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523-1010



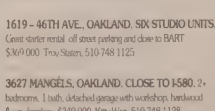
OPEN SUNDAY 2-4

3920 NEVIL AVE., OAKLAND. Newly updated 2 bedrooms, 1 bath home, near park on quiet street. Freshly painted hardwood floors, remodeled BGA kitchen. Beautifully landscaped garden with a gazebo & work shed. \$319,000. Tour at Niki@SbH.com or Niki McDougal 510-922-4449



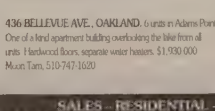
OPEN SAT & SUN 2-4

2117 ENCINAL AVE., ALAMEDA. COMPLETELY RENOVATED HOME. 4 bedrooms (includes master suite), 3 baths, large living room, formal dining room and family room. \$688,000. Mary Tere 510-747-1620



OPEN SAT & SUN 2-4

3627 MANGLES, OAKLAND. CLOSE TO 1580. 2+ bedrooms, 1 bath, detached garage with workshops, hardwood floors. \$349,000. Mary Tere 510-748-1128



OPEN SAT & SUN 2-4

311 4th STREET #125, OAKLAND. GREAT GROUND FLOOR UNIT. Located in the world's best district with 2 bedrooms, 1 bath. Excellent industrial space conversion. \$395,000. The Midgley's 510-748-1111



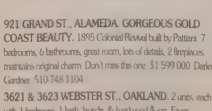
OPEN SAT & SUN 2-4

3127 MONTICELLO AVE., OAKLAND. Meador Park area. Recent major renovation including parties foundations, new windows, kitchen, bath, garage, etc. 2 bedrooms, 2 baths. \$429,000. Patsy Dimick 510-748-1148 or Deb Grafts 510-748-1180



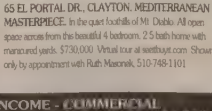
OPEN SAT & SUN 2-4

2800 CLAY ST., ALAMEDA. CLASSIC EAST END MEDITERRANEAN HOME. 3+ bedrooms, plank hardwood floors in living & dining rooms, built-in china cabinet & traditional kitchen. \$599,000. Stephanie Heller 510-748-1133



OPEN SAT & SUN 2-4

921 GRAND ST., ALAMEDA. GORGEOUS GOLD COAST BEAUTY. 1895 Colonial Revival built by Potters. 7 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, great room, lots of details, 2 fireplaces, maintains original charm. Don't miss this one. \$1,599,000. Doreen Gardner 510-748-1104



OPEN SAT & SUN 2-4

3621 & 3623 WEBSTER ST., OAKLAND. 2 units, each with 1 bedroom, 1 bath, laundry & hardwood floors. Faces Woodward Park & walking distance to Piedmont shopping area. \$460,000. Kate Miller 510-748-1128



OPEN SAT & SUN 2-4

1639 - 63RD ST., BERKELEY. GREAT PRICE OF \$551,500. 3 legal units - 2 are 3 bedrooms. Mary Ann Heller 800-523-9404

OPEN SAT & SUN 2-4

66 EL PORTAL DR., CLAYTON. MEDITERRANEAN MASTERPIECE. In the quiet foothills of Mt. Diablo. All open space across from the beautiful 4 bedrooms. 2.5 bath home with manicured yards. \$730,000. Virtual tour at webbay.com. Show only by appointment with Ruth Macneil 510-748-1101

2 New Listings



SUPER CLEAN CONDO

#456 - Great floor plan includes one car garage, security gate. Fresh paint & new window coverings. Washer, dryer fridge.



HANDYMAN SPECIAL

#473 - Large duplex on a corner lot. Each unit has a 1 car garage, separate entrance. Great income potential.

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Redwood Heights Listing!

OPEN SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2-4:30PM



4115 Gregory Street, Oakland

Charming 2 bedroom cottage located on a beautiful private, deep lot. Home has a new foundation, new exterior paint and newer roof. Needs interior upgrading. Enchanting yard with lush mature landscaping. A great opportunity in a wonderful location. Lot size approximately 8,900 square feet.

OFFERED AT \$399,000

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Senior Sales Associate

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PACIFIC UNION

ucates women on the basic principles of homebuying. Issues and concerns dealing with women are addressed in "womanspeak." For more information and dates of upcoming workshops contact Ward at 510-559-4000.

SERKES SAYS

So, we have a celebrity/expert in our midst. "Mr. Internet", also known as Michael Russer, interviewed Berkeley Realtor Ira Serkes. He was

interested in how the Serkes Team of Ira and Carol Serkes use technology to provide high levels of high tech and still maintain high touch service for their clients. "The High Tech Future...is Now" is an article recently published in California Real Estate magazine and written by Serkes. In addition to being a Realtor, Serkes is also an author. The Serkes are with RE/Max Executive and can be contacted at berkeleyhomes.com.

TECH HELP

CAR's Tech Hotline, which offers free, live help from real estate technology experts has a new toll-free number for members to call. Available Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. the CAR Tech Hotline has answers to questions about computer operating systems (such as Microsoft Windows, Macintosh, or Palm); popular software, including Top Producer, FileMaker, Microsoft's Office suite, Internet browsers,

FrontPage and others; Internet access; e-mail applications; and more. (MLS hardware or software is not supported by the hotline.) The new phone number is (800) 773-8630.

HABITAT HELP

Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in Northern California donated \$131,567 to Habitat for Humanity. The donation resulted from a community-wide raffle. This year's program marked the 10th year that

CB sponsored Habitat for Humanity. The funds go towards the overall year-end donation benefiting

See REID, Page B8

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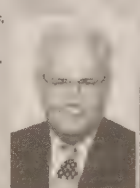
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LOAN CONSULTANT

OFFICE: 339.4300

email: rsmith@lasallefinance.com

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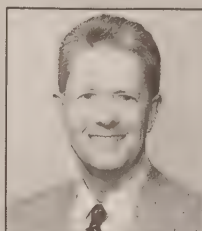


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2053 Oregon Street, Berkeley - PRICE REDUCED!



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Come home for the holidays to your very own Berkeley bungalow. Purchase this lovingly restored home now at a great price. This wonderful urban retreat is conveniently located near BART, Berkeley Bowl, restaurants and retail. Flooring turn-of-the-century charm with modern comforts, finishes include cove ceilings, rare Douglas Fir floors, beautifully custom-painted walls, large master bedroom with walk-in closet, tranquil courtyard garden, and huge det. workshop with great potential for home office, artist space, guest cottage or rental. With superb, above-standard structural upgrades, this home offers you peace of mind and better future appreciation. Upgrades include brand new two-story foundation, newer roof and an updated electrical system.

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Offered at \$485,000
Heather Sandford (510) 464-1185

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www.pacunion.com

Open Sunday



OAKLAND HILLS \$1,025,000
601 VIA RIALTO (Sat/Sun 12:00-4:30)
New home w/incredible bay vws. 4BR/3BA, pleasant backyard, high dramatic ceilings, Gourmet kit w/hdwd cabinetry, fireplaces, designer baths. Keith Tollas x1382



MONTCLAIR \$929,000
5 WOODSIDE GLEN CT. (Sat/Sun 1-4:30)
First release of 21 new homes. Superb new Traditional, 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, top end finishes, level yard, 3100 sq. ft. Teri Carlisle & Francis Heath x1388



MONTCLAIR \$850,000
6166 VALLEY VIEW RD. (Open 1-4)
Wonderful remodel, new kit/family room, master suite w/sitting area, 4BR/3.5BA, rumpus rm and more. Francis Heath x1357

Open Sunday

PIEDMONT PINES \$729,000
2609 MOUNTAIN GATE WAY (2-4:30)
New listing! Great 1927 traditional with 3+BR/2.5BA & very large lot. Needs lots of work. Kathleen Callahan x1343

SAN FRANCISCO \$699,000
2 FALLON PL. #57 (Open 2-4:30)
Russian Hill, 2BR/1BA. Great views of Nob Hill, downtown, Bay Bridge. Lg deck, tennis, storage, 2 gar pkg. Ashley O'Neill x1368



RIDGEMONT \$635,000
4967 STONERIDGE CT. (Open 2-4:30)
Glorious canyon vista! Quiet cul-de-sac, pristine 3BR/2.5BA w/FDR, wood flrs, level outdoor living. Robyn Mohr x1310

MONTCLAIR \$595,000
6155 WESTOVER DR. (Open 2-4:30)
Cozy home rebuilt 2 yrs ago. 3+BR/2.5BA, MBR bath w/Japanese soaking tub, Decks. Sandi Klemmer x1314 & Dick Cohen x1308



MONTCLAIR \$579,000
5959 BALBOA DR. (Open 2-4:30)
Quaint & quiet 3+BR/2BA w/updated kit & baths. Yard, hot tub. Ann Nichols x1319

Open Sunday

MONTCLAIR \$579,000
1 CHICO COURT (Open 2-4:30)
Charming 2+BR/1BA, updated kit & BA. Non-conforming 3rd BR/office & bath. Lvl yard w/deck & hot tub. Storage. Beautiful footpath to Montclair. Dick Cohen x1308



LAUREL \$549,000
3539 VICTOR AVE. (Open 2-4:30)
Lovely sun-filled 4BR/2BA w/gourmet kitchen, hardwood floors, fireplace. New roof in 2003, attached 2-car garage. Great location! Lee Jacobson x1309



REDWOOD HEIGHTS \$525,000
4481 MATTIS CT. (Open 2-4:30)
Dramatic 3BR/2BA Contemporary w/hardwood floors, 2 way fireplace brick wall, kitchen/family room combo. Wendy Gardner x1303

GLENVIEW \$479,000
1355 EXCELSIOR AVE. (Open 2-4:30)
Meticulously remodeled 3BR/2BA bungalow w/Granite counters, new appliances & baths. Near shopping, schools & transportation. Steven Biasatti x1379

Open Sunday

REDWOOD HEIGHTS \$399,000
4115 GREGORY ST. (Open 2-4:30)
Charming 2 bedroom cottage on private, deep lot. New foundation, exterior paint. Needs interior upgrades. Yard. 8900 +/-sq. ft. Christian Downer x1340

ROCKRIDGE \$249,000
5343 BROADWAY TERR. #201 (2-4:30)
New listing! Prestigious Rockridge location. Contemporary condo, 1BR/1BA, balcony, new carpet & paint, pkg. near College Ave, SF bus & BART. Ashley O'Neill x1368

JACK LONDON SQUARE \$195,000
7 EMBARCADERO, #301 (Open 2-4:30)
1BR/1BA water view condo w/south-facing deck! Top floor end unit with new paint & carpet. Vaulted ceiling. Resort-like complex! Lorri Arazi x1330

By Appointment



PIEDMONT \$4,750,000
Magnificent English level with incredible detail on 2/3 acre level land. Grand formal rooms, 6+BR, pool. Georgia Cornell x1325



PIEDMONT \$3,750,000
Stately English Tudor with 4+BR/4+BA, incredible architectural detail, library, fam room & guest suite. Georgia Cornell x1325

PIEDMONT \$1,325,000
Lovely custom contemporary 4+BR/4BA w/ space & privacy. Walls of glass, brick courtyard, eat-in kit. Rosalie Woods x1324

OAKLAND HILLS \$869,000
Fabulous Bay views! 5BR/3.5BA, under construction. Great value! Granite slab counters, hardwood cabinets, designer bathroom. David Ichikawa x1331

BERKELEY \$1,650,000
1000 ALOMA AVE. (Open 2-4:30)
Glen House. Rich architectural detail, hardwood walls and beams, a cook's dream room & versatile second unit. www.pacunion.com. Gini Erck x1339



PIEDMONT \$1,599,000
1000 ALPINE RD. (Open 2-4:30)
Completely remodeled contemporary Piedmont neighborhood. 4BA, family room, level out to sunny garden. Debi Fitzgerald x1306



PACIFIC AVE. \$1,195,000
1000 PACIFIC AVE. (Open 2-4:30)
3 color w/stunning vwi 4+BR/3BA, solid ceiling in LR, FDR, grt woodwork, granite, lam rm, sun rm, garden patios. www.pacunion.com. Joanna Gould x1346

WILSON HIGHLAND \$1,195,000
1000 WILSON HIGHLAND RD. (Open 2-4:30)
4BR/4BA Traditional w/reinforced concrete, newly landscaped large level lot with front in & out. Near shopping & transportation. Fritz Hochfeller x1348

San Francisco Bay Area Real Estate Resource

510.339.6460

1900 Mountain Blvd., Oakland, CA

Hymer

FROM PAGE B2

be operative at close of escrow. If so and an inspection reveals that the furnace doesn't work, the seller may be responsible for fixing it.

However, the contract could specify that the buyers are purchasing the property in its present condition, subject to their inspections. The sellers aren't obligated to fix defects. And, the buyers can cancel the contract without penalty.

In this situation, inspections made during the transaction can trigger another round of negotiation between the buyer and seller. The equitable sharing of costs approach recommended above can work well if you have to renegotiate the contract based on new information discovered during inspections.

To help decide what's fair, make a list of the newly discovered defects. Obtain price estimates to repair the defects. Separate the work list into three categories: one for significant defects that must be repaired immediately, another for less pressing issues and a third for recommendations by inspectors that fall into the upgrade category.

THE CLOSING: It's easier to

To help decide what's fair, make a list of the newly discovered defects. Obtain price estimates to repair the defects. Separate the work list into three categories: one for significant defects that must be repaired immediately, another for less pressing issues and a third for recommendations by inspectors that fall into the upgrade category.

convince a seller to pay for repair costs if you are willing to share in the expense. Give the seller a copy of your work sheet to show him how you arrived at the amount you are asking him to pay.

Dian Hymer can be reached at 510-339-4777 or by e-mail at Dian@Dianhymer.com.

Reid

FROM PAGE B7

area Habitat construction projects. If you would like to help Habitat for Humanity contact your nearest Coldwell Banker office.

AAR MEETS

In lieu of the monthly Inform Meeting, the Alameda Association of Realtors will hold their Annual General Membership Meeting at 8:30 a.m., Tuesday, Dec. 9. The location is the Garden Isle Community Center on Melrose Avenue in Alameda. Members are asked to return the 2004 Budget Ballot to the AAR office by Dec. 10. Questions should be addressed to association Treasurer Eileen Walker. Meeting information is available at 510-523-7229.

WCR LUNCHEON

The Women's Council of Realtors East Bay Chapter monthly meeting date is Friday, Nov. 21. The meeting begins with networking at 11:30. The location is Scott's Restaurant, at Jack London Square in Oakland. For reservations call WCR President Patricia Bouie Hinds of Classic Investments at 510-834-0702 or bouiehinds@sbcglobal.net.

LISTING PRESENTATION

Are you frustrated by losing listings? Do you need a formal presentation? Attend the "Listing Pre-

sentation Class," presented by veteran business coach and trainer Kitty Cole. Cole teaches how to create a personal listing presentation and marketing plan. This program is viable for agents of all experience levels. Get the confidence you need to get the listing. For a date and location near you call 925-254-1900 or send e-mail to Kitty.biz@aol.com.

REALTOR UNIVERSITY

Education for real estate professionals doesn't stop when they receive their licenses. It is an ongoing process. The National Association of Realtors provides online education, with Realtor University Online. It offers over 100 hours of real estate and professional development classes. RUO allows agents to learn what they want, where they want, at home or in the office. Students can test-drive a course before registering. For available courses check out www.realtoruniversity.org.

45 HOURS

Renew your real estate license. Attend and earn all 45 DRE credit hours at once. The seminar includes Agency, Ethics, Trust Funds and Fair Housing. The instructor will be "The Real Estate Guys" talk

Find Out What Your Home is Worth On-Line
visit:
www.BerkeleyHomeValue.com
Agent: B-H-M

show host, Charlie Krackeler. Seminars are held on weekday mornings, in a variety of Bay area locations. For more information about attending to renew your license call 1-800-54-RENEW.

WHO'S WHO?

Who won the Tour Day Breakfast Laptop Raffle benefiting the Oral Lee Brown Foundation? The raffle winner is Lila Owens of Better Homes Realty.

WHAT'S WHAT?

Something special is going on? Party or not? I'd love to let you know. Send an email to bob@spring.com. Fax 510-440-1111.

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THIS WEEK'S OPEN HOME GUIDE STARTS ON B16.

RED OAK REALTY

www.redoakrealty.com

Homes Open Sunday

BERKELEY - NEW LISTING! **\$655,000**

3/2 - Unique brown shingle artist retreat with magical outdoor spaces and Bay views! Newly renovated. More information at www.heldandjenry.com

1215 Queens Road Open 2-4

BERKELEY - NEW LISTING! **\$675,000**

4/3 - Fabulous big house! Architect designed & built in 2002! Open floor plan, designer colors and kitchen. Fun, livable neighborhood. More info at www.heldandjenry.com

1127 Bancroft Way Open 2-4

BERKELEY **\$475,000**

4+1/1 - First time on the market in 80 years! 2-story home with additional fixer with 2-car garage, deep lot, great potential. Short distance to downtown and UC campus.

2228 Carleton Street Open 2-4

EL CERRITO **\$549,000**

3+1/1.5 - Sunny, spacious Eichler style in the hills. Vaulted living room ceiling, renovated kitchen and baths. Large deck for private lounging. Near open space. Must see!

1155 King Court Open 1:30-4:30

OAKLAND **\$373,000**

2+1 - Fabulous! Retro charm meets upgrades galore! Spacious new kitchen with breakfast room/den, formal dining room. 2-car garage/studio workshop. Has it all!

2801 Eastman Avenue Open 2-5

OAKLAND **\$299,000**

LOFT - Stunning loft in historic Calcutta building. Radiant floors, skylight dome, exposed brick walls, remodeled kitchen & bath. Photos & more @ www.redoakrealty.com

730 29th Street #215 Open

By Appointment

BERKELEY **\$373,000**

2/1 - Dollhouse in best location convenient to all! Exceptionally sunny corner cottage with attached garage, big eat-in kitchen, and formal dining room.

BERKELEY **\$439,000**

3/1 - Bungalow with formal dining room with box beam ceiling and fireplace. Huge attic ready for expansion. Sunny yard with deck and garden space

BERKELEY **\$489,000**

3/1 - Wonderful, convenient, spacious home with view. Large sunny living room, formal dining room, fabulous large fenced garden, 2-car garage & more!

BERKELEY **\$649,000**

Fourplex - Very good condition! Low maintenance! 2 one-bedroom units & 2 non-conforming studios. 3 units have been remodeled! Great lot, great neighborhood

BERKELEY **\$285,000**

1/1 - Wonderful remodeled one bedroom condo - a peaceful pied-a-terre just two blocks from College Avenue. New bath. Cook's kitchen. Parking!

ALBANY **\$398,000**

COMMERCIAL - A rare Salano Avenue cottage. Zoned C-1, this four room home is ideal for many uses and includes off-street parking. Call for details

ALBANY **\$399,000**

2/1 - Great opportunity! 1/2 block from Salano Avenue. Separate 2 room office or bonus studio. Hardwood floors and some original details. A fixer with great potential.

RICHMOND **\$597,000**

2+3/3 - Light and bright townhome in Marina Bay. Private, landscaped courtyard. Two-car attached garage. A must see! More info @ www.kateandmarie.com

RICHMOND **\$319,000**

3/1 - Light-filled bungalow with hardwood floors, fenced yard, updated eat-in kitchen, dining room with fireplace. Easy access to freeways, shopping and BART.

OAKLAND **\$1,295,000**

5+3/5 - Brand new Craftsman lodge revival on an oak-studded parcel with 2 master suites and 3,500 square feet of fabulous details. Private yet close to everything

OAKLAND **\$399,000**

LOFT - Super fresh, spacious and soaring 2-level loft in historic Clawson building. Separate living mezzanine. Large west-facing windows on both levels

OAKLAND **\$549,000**

2/1 - Sunny level-in home with great view off master bedroom and large terrace yard. Hardwood floors, fireplace, 2-car attached garage/studio. Must see!

1891 Salano Avenue
Berkeley, CA 94707
510.527.3387

2983 College Avenue
Berkeley, CA 94705
510.849.9990

2099 Pleasant Valley
Oakland, CA 94612
510.292.2000

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Stunning sun-filled gated villa combines peaceful seclusion with easy access in Orinda Country Club area. Beautiful gardens surround the stunning 3 bedroom Mediterranean-style home. Master suite with walk-in closet, full bath, with entrances on 2 streets. Open floor plan ideal for entertaining with cathedral ceilings peaked by skylight, large formal dining and living rooms with dramatic fireplaces. Large kitchen and family room open to courtyard and landscaped garden.

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OPEN 2-4:30

BY APPOINTMENT

INCOME PROPERTIES



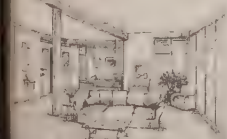
\$1,900,000
Hills. New Spanish Mediterranean 4BD/3BA
Floor plan with lots of light and view of the bay.
Call Tracy Butler 531-7000x295



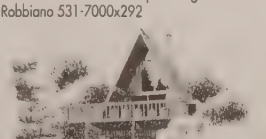
\$495,000
2837 ADAMS
Alameda. Delightful East End 3BD/2BA Cape Cod cottage.
Sellers motivated. Hardwood floors in living room, dining
area & main floor bedroom. Lovely garden, back patio for
barbecue. Off street parking. Must see!
Carol Robbiano 531-7000x292



\$879,000
INCREDIBLE STATELY TRADITIONAL
Crocker Highlands. Designed by architect, this grand
4BD/3.5BA home affords spacious public rooms, beautiful
detail, & peaceful hill views. Close to shops & transportation.
Joy Bryden 531-7000x218



\$649,000
4th STREET #2A
London Square. Spectacular 1850 sq. ft. loft in
premier building. Light, sunny rare corner unit.
Fully updated throughout. Perfect for entertaining. More
info call Tracy Butler 531-7000x232



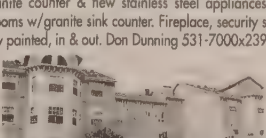
\$479,000
6201 THORNHILL DRIVE
Montclair. 2+BD/2BA Montclair Tahoe-style chalet in
woodsy setting. Relax with nature on two decks. Kitchen
w/granite counter & new stainless steel appliances. Both
bathrooms w/granite sink counter. Fireplace, security system.
Freshly painted, in & out. Don Dunning 531-7000x239



\$299,000
PIEDMONT AVENUE AREA
Piedmont Avenue. Two bedroom, one bath condo with
wood burning fireplace, in unit laundry, balcony, pretty
outlook, garage parking. Chris Christensen 531-7000x242



\$575,000
DOLORES AVENUE
Spacious, 1927 traditional 3+BD/2BA w/great
corner on a quiet, Upper Glenview street. Beautiful
wood floors & new Berber carpeting. Kitchen & bath
recently updated. Huge recreation/rumpus room.
Priced for the size & location.
Call Heidi Kearsley 531-7000x239



\$345,000
555 10TH STREET
Oakland. Back on the market, taking offers 11/26 at
12:00, snap this one up - it won't last!! Light & bright with loft
hide away. Live downtown in the heart of it all, zip anywhere
from BART a block away. Heidi Kearsley 531-7000x295



\$420,000
PRICE REDUCED! MOVE RIGHT IN!
North Oakland. Best value in neighborhood. 3BD, 2BA,
family room, living room, dining room, fireplace, hrdwd
floors, 2-car garage, rear yard w/fruit trees, freshly painted.
Must see! Frank Hennefer 531-7000x235

\$825,000
SIX UNITS
North Berkeley. Off Shattuck Avenue. Close distance to
CAL. Owners unit vacant! Hardwood floors, tile kitchen, good
parking, top locale. Frank Hennefer 531-7000x235

\$795,000
MIXED UNITS
Oakland. Four 1BD residential units over two commercial
storefronts. Five parking spaces off street. Perfect live-work
setup. Foundation, electrical roof, plumbing has been redone.
Near International Blvd. & 14th Avenue.
Frank Hennefer 531-7000x235

\$555,000
OAKLAND FOURPLEX
Oakland. Live in one, rent the others for income. Nice
location close to freeway and downtown Oakland.
Beth DeAtley 531-7000x234

\$775,000
ATTRACTIVE 5 UNITS
IN ALLENDALE
Allendale Park. Well maintained 2BD/1BA units. Four
with enclosed garages, coin laundry and storage. Recent
upgrades, low expenses, and two recent vacancies. A must
see! Carlo Tamburrino 531-7000x279

LAND

\$299,000
GOING, GOING, GO...
...Get it before all the VIEW LOTS are gone in the hills. This
lot is located close in to Claremont Hills country club,
restaurants and shops. Heidi Kearsley 531-7000x295

WEEKLY SALES

ALAMEDA

1422 3rd St - \$450,000
39 Argus Ct - \$543,000
3018 Bayview Dr - \$600,000
1548 Buena Vista - \$375,000
3008 Cerro Vista - \$465,000
1045 Fontana Dr - \$340,000
127 Galway Bay - \$683,000
19 Invincible Ct - \$435,000
1034 Melrose Av - \$420,000
1014 Mound St - \$480,000
2515 Otis Dr - \$479,000
915 Pacific Av - \$485,000
1434 Paru St - \$514,000
950 Shorepoint 210 - \$345,000
3351 Solomon Ln - \$415,000
1055 Via Bonita - \$439,000

ALBANY

415 Cornell 204 - \$320,000

BERKELEY

1610 63rd St - \$360,000
2608 Ashby Av - \$650,000
2206 Bonar St - \$405,000
1113 Channing - \$490,000
1207 Delaware St - \$415,000

2763 Dohr St - \$460,000
3107 Ellis St - \$350,000
2574 Hilgard Av - \$810,000
777 Hilldale Av - \$777,000
942 Hilldale Av - \$875,000
2312 McGee Av - \$500,000
1228 Oregon St - \$535,000
1521 Oregon St - \$410,000
2333 Sacramento - \$519,000

EL CERRITO

6536 Alta Vista - \$440,000
1509 Arlington Bl - \$545,000
537 Balra Dr - \$500,000
7224 View Av - \$525,000

EL SOBRANTE

557 Chabre - \$299,000
622 Lois Ln - \$545,000
1020 Ridgeview - \$564,000

EMERYVILLE

1 Captain D264 - \$171,000
1 Captain D455 - \$334,000
7 Commodore 252 - \$232,000
8 Commodore C262 - \$212,500
5855 Horton 519 - \$355,000
5855 Horton 701 - \$415,000
204 Liquid Sugar - \$453,500

205 Liquid Sugar - \$407,000
1250 Ocean Av - \$407,000

KENSINGTON

45 Arlington Av - \$669,000
7 Westminster - \$652,000
123 York Av - \$700,000

See SALES, Page B11

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Sharp 4 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath home nestled in a Montclair. This immaculate contemporary offers the indoor/outdoor living and is located near a private Thornhill School and shops with convenient freeway access.

ASKING \$669,000

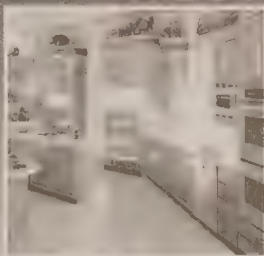


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FEATURED HOMES



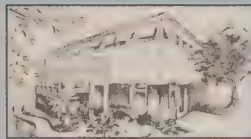
Sunday 1-5 \$1,149,000
7 White Court, Oakland. Brand new 5 BR, 3.5 BA Adrienne Brochier Design Home! Heidi Marchesotti (510) 339-9290



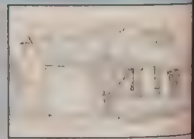
Sunday 1-5 \$1,148,000
6122 Ocean View, Oakland. 4+ BR, 3 BA, updated, 11,060 square foot lot. Beauty! Scott Thompson (510) 428-0900



Sunday 2-4 \$985,000
355 Jerome, Piedmont. 3 BR/2 BA enchanting residence. Superb location. Faye Magee (510) 845-0211



SUNDAY 2-4:30 \$800,000
1280 61st Street, Emeryville. Shangri-La. Handcrafted, work of art, gardens, 1+BR, 2 BA. See it! FriedmanRealtor.com (510) 868-1400



SUNDAY 2-5 \$810,000
879 38th Street, Richmond 2 BR/1 BA, perfect 101 Hardwood floors, 2000 sq. foot lot. Kathleen Wilson (510) 520-1111

Oakland/Piedmont

OPEN Sunday 2-4:30 \$1,399,000
5763 Scarborough. New price! Spectacular 4+BR, 3.5 BA new home! Views! Heidi Marchesotti (510) 339-9290

OPEN Sunday 2-4:30 \$1,095,000
6826 Thornhill. Stunning 4+BR, 4 BA Mediterranean in private setting. Howard Converse (510) 339-9290

OPEN Sunday 2-4:30 \$970,000
6773 Sobrante. Brand new 3+ BR, 2.5 BA. Construction is one of a kind! Kriss Makris (510) 339-9290

OPEN Sunday 2-4:30 \$725,000
6218 View Crest Drive. New price - 3+ BR, 2.5 BA, 2 fireplaces, FR, 3-car garage. Barbara Hopper (510) 845-0211

OPEN Sunday 2-4 \$569,000
5800 Nottingham Drive. Great canyon views, SFR-now 2 rentals: 1BR/1BA & 2BR/1BA. Hernan Luna (510) 428-0900/464-1354

OPEN Sunday 2-4:30 \$439,000
8487 Ney. Large home, 4 BR, 3 BA, potential au pair! Barbara Reynolds (510) 868-1400

OPEN Sunday 2-4:30 \$409,000
7594 Circle Hill Drive. Charming 2 BR, 1 BA bungalow with hardwood floors! Erik Johnson (510) 339-9290

OPEN Sunday 2-4:30 \$299,000
2230 Havenscourt Blvd. 2 BR, 1 BA, updated, fireplace, FDR, LR, eat-in kitchen, yard. Ted Normant (510) 845-0211

Oakland/Piedmont

Victorian Cottage \$295,000
W. Oakland, 2 BR, 1 BA, high-ceiling, original, garage, laundry, hwd floors, lovely backyard, EZ BART, EZ fwy. Cynthia (510) 868-1400

Oakland/Berkeley Border \$270,000
Move right in! 2 BR, 1.5 BA, 1004 square foot condo, close to UC, shops & BART. Jurgen Aust (510) 868-1419

3 BD/1 BA Home \$259,000
Spacious yard, separate laundry room, new cabinets & countertop kitchen. Lilia A. Marquez (510) 834-2010

Charming Bungalow \$259,000
Move right in! 2 BR, 1 BA, new kitchen/bath, hardwood floors, nice yard. Sharon Ho (510) 845-0211

2 BR, 1 BA \$230,000
The only thing missing from this cozy & cute cottage is you! Gloria Sayles (510) 868-1400

Alameda

OPEN Sunday 2-4 \$575,000
1616 Fernside. Comes with 50 foot dock. New price! Steve Ryman (510) 845-0211

OPEN Sat & Sun 2-4 \$440,000
1209 Eagle Avenue. Charming 2+ BR, 1+ BA, basement, parking, yard, must see! Reaching Prize (510) 913-8084

Berkeley/Albany

OPEN Sunday 2-4:30 \$629,000
1488 Olympus. Mid-century contemporary, double lot, swimming pool. David Otero.com (510) 339-9290

Berkeley/Albany

OPEN Sunday 2-4:30 \$589,000
2741 Garber #2. Unique 2 BR, 1 BA condo with hardwood floors, yard, detached studio. TamiBobb.com (510) 339-9290

Contra Costa

OPEN Sunday 2-4:30 \$359,000
2707 Moyers Road, Richmond. Wonderful 3 BR, 2 BA, fireplace, large garden. Alikya Vasdekis (510) 845-0211

Residential Income

OPEN Sunday 1-4 \$810,000
5818 Martin Luther King. Duplex, up & down hardwood floors, 1000 sq. ft. Gregory Garrett (510) 520-1111

Receive daily emails on new listings for sale...

Listing Watch

The minute they hit the market.

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Contra Costa

OPEN Sunday 1-5 \$455,000
2851 Wright. Paradise in Pinole. 4 BR, 2.5 BA tri-level, pool, waterfall, fireplace, dining room, huge lot. Art White (510) 868-1400

Residential Income

8 Units - Berkeley \$699,000
Four 2 BR, 1 BA and four 1 BR/1 BA. Handsome stucco building. 2915 Dohr. Spacious! Wendy Kashiwa (510) 868-1400

East Oakland Income
Quiet cul-de-sac. 2 BR/1 BA & 1 BR/1 BA, sep. meters, sep. garage, beautiful backyard, clean, updated, move in! Cynthia (510) 868-1400

OPEN Sunday 1-5 \$612,000
6122 Ocean View, Oakland. 4 BR, 3 BA, updated, 11,060 square foot lot. Scott Thompson (510) 428-0900

OPEN Sunday 2-4:30 \$350,000
35 Agnes. Stylish, contemporary view, 4 BR, 3 BA. Upper Rockwood. Barbara McQuaid (510) 868-1400

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CLAREMONT

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EL CERRITO

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GRAND LAKE

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510-339-9290

PIEDMONT

510-428-0900



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SALES
PAGE B10

3000 60th Av - \$381,000
998 63rd St - \$350,000
1344 64th Av - \$165,000
1198 64th St - \$489,000
1847 66th Av - \$270,000
1606 74th Av - \$315,000
1727 82nd Av - \$230,000
2901 82nd Av - \$413,500
1301 83rd Av - \$360,000
960 85th Av - \$225,000
2445 89th Av - \$283,500
2531 90th Av - \$310,000
2837 Alida St - \$683,000
632 Alvarado - \$1,063,000
4320 Arcadia Av - \$819,000
1291 Bates Rd - \$550,000
5240 Belvedere St - \$385,000

546 Boden Wy - \$650,000
2084 Braemar Rd - \$625,000
5335 B'way Tr 202 - \$368,000
4523 Brookdale Av - \$300,000
3231 Brunell Dr - \$725,000
3772 Buell St - \$390,000
320 Caldecott 127 - \$395,000
452 Cavour St - \$535,000
6111 Chelton Dr - \$1,575,000
9311 Cherry St - \$190,000
7380 Claremont Av - \$915,500
715 Cleveland St - \$460,000
5254 Cole St - \$360,000
6319 C. Costa Rd - \$1,275,000
3854 Coolidge Av - \$365,000
3060 Curran Av - \$305,000
8521 Dowling St - \$270,000

2912 East 17th St - \$310,000
521 East 20th St - \$568,000
2509 East 21st St - \$285,000
9531 Empire Rd - \$250,000
74 Entrada Av - \$626,000
5826 Fleming Av - \$300,000
5575 Florence Tr - \$681,000
5601 Florence Tr - \$625,000
1910 Foothill Bl - \$275,000
1138 Grand View - \$1,550,000
6214 Harmon Av - \$150,000
2418 Havenscourt - \$320,000
5855 Heron Dr - \$915,000
2644 Hickory St - \$375,000
2539 Highland Av - \$245,000
5371 Hilltop Crescent - \$645,000


1356 Holman Rd - \$411,000
455 Hudson St - \$785,000
2812 Humboldt Av - \$350,000
2134 Linden St - \$497,000
552 Merrimac St - \$295,000
311 Oak St #115 - \$585,000
311 Oak St #319 - \$390,000
311 Oak St #734 - \$403,000
3821 Opal St - \$465,000
2707 Park Bl - \$350,000
10421 Pippin St - \$240,000
2629 Rawson St - \$450,000
2918 Rawson St - \$460,000
3220 Robinson Dr - \$1,105,000
3811 Ruby St - \$420,000
2985 School St - \$300,000

2480 Seminary Av - \$246,000
6506 Simson St - \$365,000
3322 Stuart St - \$215,500
5594 Taft Av - \$780,000


See SALES, Page B12

Find Out What Your Home is Worth On-Line
visit:
www.BerkeleyHomeValue.com
Agents, Re/Max


A sampling of our current listings:



El Sobrante
Beautiful, well maintained 3br/2ba home in a great location. Bonus family room; huge back yard with big deck & views. 2 car s/s garage. New paint inside & out. Move-in condition.
\$424,500

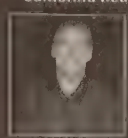


Diamond District - Oakland
Handsome 3-unit building on large lot with plenty of off street parking. Two-bedroom unit on top floor and one-bedroom unit on lower floor will be vacant at close of escrow. Hardwood floors; two fireplaces.
\$589,000



Russian Hill
Great pied-a-terre. Remodeled studio with walk-out balcony and panoramic Bay views. 1 car parking, 24-hour door person, on-site manager. Ideal location near Ghirardelli Sq., the Cannery, Fisherman's wharf, restaurants shops and transportation.
\$249,900

Prudential
California Realty



Jim Hedges
Manager
slunionjim@aol.com

2241 Market St. San Francisco 2200 Union St. San Francisco
415-762-9399

COMING SOON



CROCKERS HIGHLANDS FIXER UPPER

Great opportunity to renovate a charming older English style home in a desirable neighborhood. Three plus bedrooms, two bathrooms, formal dining room, sunny exposure, level yard.

Offered at \$499,000



Dian Hymer, CRS
Associate Broker
#1 agent Oakland/Piedmont office
510-339-4777
Website: dianhymer.com

COLDWELL BANKER

MORTGAGE RATES

1/Y ADJUSTABLE RATE		3/Y ADJUSTABLE RATE		5/Y ADJUSTABLE JUMBO RATE	
RATE	APR	RATE	APR	RATE	APR
3.625%	3.942%	4.00%	3.993%	5.125%	4.406%

510-748-8904

"Where People Come First"

2130 Otis Drive • Alameda
email: BrydonB@BankofAlameda.com

Bank of Alameda
Member FDIC

Estimated annual percentage rate is based on \$322,700 loan amount and includes points. Applicable closing costs will apply. 1/Y Adjustable Rate Mortgage is fixed for the first year. Adjusts to market rate every year thereafter. Estimated payment on maximum conforming loan amount of \$322,700 is approximately \$1,472, minimum loan amount \$200,000. Homeowner's insurance is required.

Estimated annual percentage rate is based on \$322,700 loan amount and includes points. Applicable closing costs will apply. 3/Y Adjustable Rate Mortgage is fixed for the first three years. Adjusts to market rate every year thereafter. Estimated payment on maximum conforming loan amount of \$322,700 is approximately \$1,541, minimum loan amount \$200,000. Homeowner's insurance is required.

Estimated annual percentage rate is based on \$500,000 loan amount and includes points. Applicable closing costs will apply. 5/Y Adjustable Rate Mortgage is fixed for the first five years and then adjusts to market rate every year thereafter. Estimated payment is \$2,722, Homeowner's insurance is required.

We are not a bank. All credit applications are subject to credit qualifications and underwriting requirements. Rates as of November 17, 2003 are subject to change without notice.

The GRUBB Co.
REALTORS



5125 Harbord Drive, Upper Rockridge
Originally offered at \$849,000

ELIZABETH DICKSON
Represented the Seller
339.0400/218
dickson@grubbco.com

DANA COHEN
Represented the Buyer
339.0400/348
dcohen@grubbco.com

MONTCLAIR

Better Homes Realty

1986 Mountain Boulevard
Oakland, CA 94611
510.339.8400

1430 Leimert Blvd.
Oakland, CA 94602
510.339.4000

www.MontclairBetterHomes.com

Open Sunday
November 23
2:00 to 4:30

6193 Ruthland Road
\$1,195,000
Spectacular 4BD/3.5BA Mediterranean villa with up to date technology; cable and Ethernet wiring throughout. Great location for easy SF commute. Three car garage, 3 fireplaces, spacious living areas great for entertaining, FDR, and landscaped backyard.
NahidNassiri.com 510-339-4550

OAKLAND \$859,000
7400 Skyline Boulevard
Executive Style! Stunning contemporary built in '91. This massive home has 3 master suites, decks with views, 3 fireplaces, marble floors, perfect for the busy professional.
Maria Sinclair 510-339-4566

SAN LEANDRO \$645,000
228 Broadmoor Blvd.
Beautiful 4 BD/2.5 BA, only 13 years old, sited on oversized landscaped lot amongst San Leandro North Area estate homes. Jenn-Air/Bosch kitchen, large family room, scrumptious master suite, and much more quality.
EarleShenk.com 510-339-4000

OAKLAND \$469,000
9310 Golf Links Rd.
Charming 4BD/2BA contemporary with spacious beautifully landscaped front yard surrounded by flagstone patios and mature shade trees. Perfect for indoor/outdoor living and entertaining. Beautiful refinished hardwood floors on the main level, new paint thru-out. Detached 2-car garage plus off-street parking.
NahidNassiri.com 510-339-4550

SEQUOYAH \$549,000
8010 Hansom Drive
Spacious Sequoyah Hills ranch style finer selection of updates throughout this chic 2 level homes creates special appeal, family room opens to back patio overlooking serene canyon vista. Great for get togethers and outdoor activities.
Rosemary Greene 510-339-4000

MILLSMONT \$325,000
3921 Altamont Avenue
JUST LISTED! Classic Bungalow with a large eat-in kitchen, refinished hardwood floors and fabulous large level yard on a tree-lined street. See the virtual tour at:
PatriciaBennett.com 510-482-9000

LAUREL \$299,900
2872 Delaware Street
First time on the market since 1947. Classic 2/1 bungalow with new roof, central heat and more updates. Sunny backyard. Small but very cute!
EarleShenk.com 510-339-4000

MILLSVIEW \$298,950
3320 64th Avenue Place
Reduced! Sparkling with light and charm this perfect starter home is conveniently located close to Mills campus, shops, transportation to downtown Oakland and SF commute. Easy care landscaping and more!
Rosemary Greene 510-339-4000

OAKNOLL \$225,000
8711 Mountain Blvd. #28
Ready to move in-why pay rent! Condo with "townhouse" feel, conveniently located in complex w/mature landscaping, pool, sauna, club house many amenities. Seller wants offer!
Rosemary Greene 510-339-4000

LAKESHORE \$192,500
811 York Street #204
This stylish condo is the perfect solution for convenience, great amenities and location. This is the best opportunity to stop paying rent!
Todd Ensley 510-339-5770

ALAMO \$998,900
Lovely woodsy setting around this 4 bedroom sprawling rancher on .6 acres. Updated kitchen, hardwood floors, skylights & state-of-the-art master bath with steam room.
Danville Better Homes 925-837-2200

SAN RAMON \$799,000
Court location. 3 bedrooms plus den, split level with custom features. Pool, spa and view of the valley. New on the market.
Danville Better Homes 925-837-2200

DANVILLE \$609,500
Best-priced 4 bedroom, 2 bath in town! Approximately 2,200 sq. ft., one level. Duel pane windows, white oak floors, built-in bookshelves, inside laundry. Situated on .21 acre lot with newly landscaped front yard. Must see!
Danville Better Homes 925-837-2200

OAKLAND \$595,000
A great investment! Two level parcels for one price. Located in the heart of Oakland's Auto Row. Zoned C-40 for most types of use. Ready for apartment builders, auto parking lot, or mixed use space. A must see!
Ken Nwokedi 510-339-4000

PLEASANT HILL \$449,900
Great potential in this cute rancher-updated kitchen and baths, newer roof and dual paned windows. Large flat yard with deck, RV parking and storage. Great location near Larkey Park, trails and BART.
Danville Better Homes 925-837-2200

DANVILLE \$439,700
Gorgeous double fairway views! St. Andrews model with new carpet, fresh paint, new light fixtures and inside laundry. Light and bright! Wonderful street location! Priced to sell!
Danville Better Homes 925-837-2200

BAY POINT \$419,000
A wonderfully redone 2-story of 2,010 sq. ft. with 4 bedrooms and 2.5 baths. Huge family room as well as a spacious living room and formal dining. Brand new 30-year roof, highest quality windows and doors; spacious staircase and beautiful yard. Only 3 minutes to BART and freeway!
Danville Better Homes 925-837-2200

OAKLAND \$364,000
Well-maintained 2+ BR/1 BA light-filled Craftsman. Formal living room w/ wood burning fireplace, formal dining room, hardwood floors, breakfast nook, laundry room, deck, large yard, garage converted to bonus room, updated electric and plumbing.
Rochelle Anthony 510-339-4000

OAKLAND \$335,000
Spacious 3 BD/1 BA units. Bldg. needs some work, but great potential! Units are freshly clean/painted. Motivated seller.
Ken Nwokedi 510-339-4000

Rental

OAKLAND \$2300/MO.
For lease. Rockridge w/ view of S.F. 3 BR/1.5 BA. HWF, remodeled kitchen & baths, 2 car attached garage. Great school district. Available November 1st.
Martha Shin 510-339-4565

Commercial

OAKLAND \$1,500,000
Gorgeous and classic Victorian building, 8200 +/- square feet. 4100 sq.ft. of bar/restaurant and leased retail space downstairs, 4100 sq.ft. of framed office or residential space upstairs. In heart of Oakland's Auto Row.
Ken Nwokedi 510-339-4000

IF YOU ARE CONSIDERING A MOVE, PLEASE CALL US!

Sales

FROM PAGE B11

55 Templar Pl - \$711,000
 5519 Thomas Av - \$580,000
 1878 Tiffin Rd - \$585,000
 1650 Trestle Glen - \$825,000
 802 Trestle Glen - \$740,000
 836 Trestle Glen - \$787,500
 475 Van Dyke Av - \$448,000
 4301 Viewcrest Ct - \$679,000
 2328 Warner Av - \$260,000
 7401 Weld St - \$255,000

PIEDMONT

3 Littlewood - \$1,100,000
 1144 Winsor - \$820,000

RICHMOND

1124 18th St - \$75,000
 639 31st St - \$381,000
 767 33rd St - \$306,500
 543 43rd St - \$305,000
 1857 7th St - \$340,000
 6434 Arlington - \$260,000
 2211 Barrett Av - \$300,000
 2425 Branchwood - \$280,000
 3933 Center Av - \$268,000
 2423 Chanslor Av - \$299,000
 2634 Chanslor Av - \$355,000
 5526 Clinton Av - \$425,000
 5450 Country View - \$540,000
 2710 Downer Av - \$385,000
 6110 Fresno Av - \$305,000
 2989 Gilma Dr - \$325,000
 509 Golden Gate - \$679,000
 2838 Humphrey A - \$310,000
 2525 Lowell Av - \$329,000
 212 Malcolm Dr - \$373,000
 4104 McGlothen - \$294,000
 2936 McKenzie Dr - \$345,000
 883 Meadow View Dr - \$692,000
 4530 Meadowbrook - \$432,500
 1619 Merced St - \$325,000

4844 Morwood Dr - \$400,000
 4215 Nevin Av - \$237,000
 3751 N. Stoneglen - \$255,000
 240 Park Ln - \$228,000
 1951 Ralston Av - \$412,500
 1221 Santa Clara St - \$288,000
 2642 Sheldon Dr - \$335,000
 5521 Solano Av - \$370,000
 3668 S. Stoneglen - \$255,000
 5012 State Av - \$255,000
 3025 Stephen Dr - \$402,000
 3111 Tulare Av - \$309,000
 718 Wilson Av - \$304,000
 3011 Wiswall Dr - \$335,000
 1101 Yarrow Pl - \$427,500

SAN LEANDRO

1738 140th Av - \$250,000
 1752 150th Av - \$350,000
 492 Alvarado St - \$604,000
 711 Biltmore St - \$650,000
 984 Castle St - \$428,000
 1502 Cedar Av - \$400,000
 2350 Cheshire Pl - \$380,000
 1816 Clarke St - \$270,000
 16882 Clinton Av - \$357,000
 1470 Dayton Av - \$412,500
 685 Durant Av - \$370,000
 1390 Este Juana - \$665,000
 14674 Elm St - \$425,000
 377 Foothill Bl - \$475,000
 2500 Galleon 113 - \$310,000
 2504 Galleon 115 - \$395,000
 15598 Harbor Wy - \$570,000
 1903 Juneau St - \$380,000
 15344 Laverne Dr - \$389,000
 1373 Leonard Dr - \$380,000
 14133 Maracabo - \$402,000
 2111 Nome St - \$410,000
 1465 Oriole Av - \$402,000

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www.OaklandHomeValue.com
 Agent, Re/Max

14164 Outrigger - \$385,000
 2011 Placer Dr - \$300,000
 1503 Scenicview - \$750,000
 13735 School St - \$508,000
 14420 Seagate Dr - \$310,000
 15581 Sedgeman - \$450,000
 15866 Seiborne Dr - \$381,000
 2300 Upland Rd - \$315,000
 1453 Virginia St - \$285,000
 2523 Walnut Dr - \$387,000
 2045 Whelan Av - \$420,000

SAN LORENZO

554 Empire St - \$387,000

408 Hacienda Av - \$440,000
 17047 V Pasatiempo - \$345,000
 17113 Via Piedras - \$372,000
 17133 Via Valencia - \$370,000
 1631 Via Ventana - \$435,000
 191 Via Viento - \$390,000

By the numbers

ALAMEDA

TOTAL SALES: 16
 LOWEST PRICE: \$340,000
 HIGHEST PRICE: \$683,000
 AVERAGE PRICE: \$466,750

ALBANY

TOTAL SALES: 1
 PRICE: \$320,000

BERKELEY

TOTAL SALES: 14
 LOWEST PRICE: \$350,000
 HIGHEST PRICE: \$875,000
 AVERAGE PRICE: \$539,714

See SALES, Page B13

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JUST LISTED!
 1127 Bancroft Way
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 Offered at \$675,000
 Open Sunday
 November 23rd, 2-4 PM

Fabulous big house, architect designed and built in 2002. Open living areas, 4 bedrooms, 3 baths. Fun, liveable neighborhood.
 More information at www.heidiandjerry.com

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 Offered at \$655,000
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Brown shingle artist retreat with magical outdoor pool and Bay views! 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, newly renovated.
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 AS LOW AS **\$1499.00**
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EL CERRITO

NICE RANCHER ON LARGE LOT

IN MIRA VISTA \$489,500
 3BR 2BA almost 1900 sq. ft. 1 car att. garage w/ int. access, family room, tiled bath w/ oak cabinets, private patio area. #0302961
 Ed Shelton 510-662-8522



MAGNIFICENT MEDITERRANEAN ESTATE W/ FABULOUS BAY VIEWS! \$1,275,000

3BR master suite & den 3BA. Grand living room w/ cathedral ceilings, separate huge formal dining room, downstairs room w/ separate entrance, bar, cellar, and extra storage, hardwood floors & upgraded carpets. Almost 2700 sq. ft. lot to .70 acres which extends to Havens Place.
 995 Arlington Blvd. Open Sun 2-4
www.carladellazoppa.com 510-662-8558

RICHMOND VIEW

LOVELY COTTAGE IN THE VIEW

2BR 1BA Cute starter at a great price! Bay views, updated kitchen, dining area, 1 car attached garage w/ int. access, fireplace, and all hardwood floors. #30000425
 Steve Kendall 510-222-8870 ext. 101

FABULOUS VIEWS

Impressive custom home in prime condition. Enjoy large rooms, shining oak floors, remodeled chef's kitchen and more. Near Wildcat Canyon, 2 car attached garage, nice yard, fireplace, central heating. #30000157
 6063 Monterey Ave. Open Sun 1-4
www.cynthiaburke.com 510-662-8528

ON TOP OF THE WORLD!

4BR 3BA Custom beauty with soaring ceilings, flowing floor plan, decks, huge lot, and chic granite and tile appointments! Tranquil, serene, and quiet setting. #03029235
 1519 Barth Ave.
www.cynthiaburke.com 510-662-8528

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Market Indicator*		CONTRA COSTA TIMES MORTGAGE GUIDE				Rates as of 11/18/03	
Last wk 5.875		This wk 5.625		www.mtgeinfo.com/cct		COMMENTS	
COMPANY	Loan Product Rate/Points APR/Lock	Loan Product Rate/Points APR/Lock	Loan Product Rate/Points APR/Lock	Loan Product Rate/Points APR/Lock	Loan Product Rate/Points APR/Lock		
Downey Savings & Loan 800-798-2148 DREF #8037471	30-yr Fixed 5.375...1.750 5.561...60	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.750...1.625 5.915...60	1-mo COFI ARM* 1.250...1.000 4.605...45	1-yr ARM* 4.625...2.000 4.820...30	1-yr ARM* 1.250...0.000 3.340...60	Direct lender. 45 yrs experience, fixed & adjust rate mtgs; *Pot. neg arm. Apply online at www.downeysavings.com	
eSource Mortgage, Inc. 888-221-9787 DREF #038477	30-yr Fixed 5.250...1.750 5.400...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.375...2.000 5.520...30	15-yr Fixed 4.625...2.000 4.820...30	1-yr ARM* 1.250...0.000 3.340...60	1-yr ARM* 1.250...0.000 3.340...60	Low rates with NO POINTS ALSO NO CLOSING COSTS AVAILABLE *Pot. neg arm. Pics. online @ www.lendia.com	
First Blackhawk Financial 925-648-3039 DREF #1144055	30-yr Fixed 5.625...0.000 5.710...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.750...0.000 5.800...30	7/1 ARM Jumbo 5.375...0.000 5.400...30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.750...0.000 4.780...30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.750...0.000 4.780...30	3/1 4.25 0 pts 4.28 APR 30 day call 7 days wk mthlight @ 1stblackhawk.com	
Golden Horizon Mortgage 877-414-8280 DREF #1316554	30-yr Fixed 5.250...2.000 5.501...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.875...0.500 5.954...30	15-yr Fixed 4.625...2.000 4.867...30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.250...1.000 4.364...30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.250...1.000 4.364...30	OPEN WEEKENDS. FAST APPROVAL. Call 100% PURCHASE PROGRAM! 877-414-8280 or WWW.CALFIRSTLENDING.COM	
Imperial Mortgage 800-961-2274 DREF #1039392	30-yr Fixed 5.500...1.000 5.619...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.750...1.000 5.940...30	15-yr Fixed 4.875...1.000 5.190...30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.500...1.000 4.690...30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.500...1.000 4.690...30	DON'T BE "LURED IN" BY LOW QUOTES! CALL ME FOR A HONEST LOCKABLE RATE! CLOSING 30 DAYS OR APPRAISAL IS FREE!!!!!!	
Matrix Investment Corp. 800-366-8916 DOCH #130418	30-yr Fixed 5.125...1.500 5.326...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.500...0.250 5.578...30	15-yr Fixed 4.375...1.625 4.805...30	30-yr Fixed 0 Pts 5.375...0.000 5.481...30	30-yr Fixed 0 Pts 5.375...0.000 5.481...30	Good & Bad Credit Considered. Brokers welcome! Great Commercial Loans visit us at www.matrixinvestmentcorp.com	
Mortgage Broker Assoc. 877-987-7700 DREF #1116614	30-yr Fixed 5.500...0.750 5.673...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.750...0.250 5.818...30	3/1 ARM 3.875...0.125 4.320...30	3/1 ARM Jumbo 4.250...0.125 4.265...30	3/1 ARM Jumbo 4.250...0.125 4.265...30	NO Income/NO Assets/NO Job? - YES! NO Money Down/NO Closing Costs? - YES! All types of Credit? - YES!	
Mortgage Market 800-837-5626 DREF #0087562	30-yr Fixed 5.625...0.000 5.716...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.875...0.000 5.967...30	15-yr Fixed 4.875...0.000 5.026...30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 5.000...0.000 3.872...30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 5.000...0.000 3.872...30	Credit problems, bankruptcy, difficult loans our specialty. All gov't loans 100% loans, credit lines, construction	
National Financial Corp. 510-818-9966 DREF #956928	30-yr Fixed 5.625...0.000 5.746...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 6.000...0.000 6.067...30	3/1 ARM Jumbo 4.250...0.000 4.310...30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.750...0.000 4.812...30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.750...0.000 4.812...30	Fast approval on Purchase loan Easy qualify. Call for FREE pre-approval Apply now: www.uslending.com	
Northern Mutual Corp. 888-441-2600 DREF #1243581	30-yr Fixed call... call...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo call... call...30	6 month ARM call... call...30	6 month ARM call... call...30	6 month ARM call... call...30	WOW!! NO ADD-ON FOR JUMBO LOANS! No-Point loans are available! (3yr ppp) E-mail Steve @ northernmutual.com	
Omni Funding Services 800-303-8887 DREF #1183856	30-yr Fixed 5.500...1.500 5.725...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 6.000...1.500 6.179...30	15-yr Fixed 4.875...1.500 5.251...30	5/1 ARM 4.625...1.500 4.838...30	5/1 ARM 4.625...1.500 4.838...30	www.24hourloan.com Check out our web site for more rates! We are committed to EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE	
Pacific West Financial 800-798-7334 DREF #1124581	30-yr Fixed 5.625...0.000 5.749...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.875...0.000 5.929...30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.750...0.000 4.800...30	3/1 ARM 4.000...0.000 4.112...30	3/1 ARM 4.000...0.000 4.112...30	Se Habla Espanol 100% purchase/Credit problems OK Interest Only Loans/BK OK	
Premier Mortgage Group 888-389-6533 DOCH #130386	30-yr Fixed 5.375...0.000 5.435...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.750...0.000 5.778...30	3/1 ARM 3.250...0.000 3.764...30	5/1 ARM 3.875...0.000 3.913...30	5/1 ARM 3.875...0.000 3.913...30	Get rates online at www.pmgmortgage.com Now open Saturdays 9-3, evenings until 8:00 pm. Purchases may be 1/8% lower	
Santell & Associates 800-516-0656 DREF #0054953	30-yr Fixed 5.500...0.000 5.592...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.875...0.000 5.915...30	3/1 ARM 3.875...0.000 3.958...25	30-yr ARM* 1.950...0.000 4.782...30	30-yr ARM* 1.950...0.000 4.782...30	0 POINTS-0 COST avail! INTEREST ONLY! APPLY ONLINE at www.loanspacework.com WE'RE HONEST! *fully indexed 4.694%	
Saratoga Bancorp 800-935-6266 DREF #1220326	30-yr Fixed 5.625...0.000 5.680...45	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.875...0.000 5.900...45	15-yr Fixed 5.000...0.000 5.080...45	5/1 ARM 4.875...0.000 4.430...45	5/1 ARM 4.875...0.000 4.430...45	Loan for all credit grades! No Income Check Loans. No Upfront Fees. Pmt/Refi to 100%. Saratogabancorp.com	
SP Pacific Mtge. Consult. 415-567-5525 DREF #124387	30-yr Fixed 5.500...0.000 5.542...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.750...0.000 5.771...30	1 month MTA 1.250...0.000 3.669...30	Jumbo 6 mo 1/0* 2.875...0.000 2.893...30	Jumbo 6 mo 1/0* 2.875...0.000 2.893...30	Expert Real Estate Advice! Local SF Bay Area Broker *5 yr int only period. Labor indexed	
A American Resid. Lend. 800-566-8470 DREF #130340	30-yr Fixed 5.500...0.000 5.582...45	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.875...0.000 5.915...45	15-yr Fixed 4.875...0.000 5.028...45	1-yr ARM* 1.250...0.000 1.310...45	1-yr ARM* 1.250...0.000 1.310...45	Refi, purchase or consolidate now! Free Approval! No Doc Loans *int only M-F 7:00-9:00 Sat-Sun 7:00-5:00	
A Superior Mortgage 800-591-4446 DREF #1351704	30-yr Fixed 5.500...0.000 5.670...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.875...0.000 5.990...30	15-yr Fixed 4.875...0.000 5.090...30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.750...0.000 4.910...30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.750...0.000 4.910...30	Open weekends. Credit problems OK *Apply online* www.superior-mtg.net	
A-Olympic Funding Partners 800-400-5588 DREF #0091816	30-yr Fixed 5.375...2.000 5.592...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.780...2.000 5.870...30	15-yr Fixed 4.625...2.000 4.812...30	10-yr Int Only ARM 4.625...0.000 3.391...30	10-yr Int Only ARM 4.625...0.000 3.391...30	5/1 3.875 2pts 4.214 APR WOW!! INT ONLY NO COST LOANS E Bay Offices 800-644-6888 Purchase and Refinance Specialist	
AAA Mortgage 888-821-6200 DREF #1096146	30-yr Fixed 5.375...0.750 5.532...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.625...1.000 5.755...30	100% LTV30-yr Fx 5.625...1.000 5.807...30	5/1 ARM 4.750...0.000 4.153...30	5/1 ARM 4.750...0.000 4.153...30	107% PURCHASE PROGRAMS CHECK RATES/APPLY ONLINE @ aaamortgage.com OPEN WEEKENDS! 888.821.6200	
AccessBanc Mortgage 800-661-2765 DREF #0082954	30-yr Fixed 5.625...0.000 5.687...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.875...0.000 5.906...30	Jumbo Special* 5.000...0.000 5.906...30	Jumbo Special* 5.000...0.000 5.906...30	Jumbo Special* 5.000...0.000 5.906...30	3/1 jumbo ARM 4.000% apr 3.875% 0pts Prepay & other restrictions may apply	
AlmLoan.com 888-411-4246 DREF #1235124	30-yr Fixed 5.500...0.000 5.602...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.750...0.000 5.791...30	15-yr Fixed 4.750...0.250 4.959...30	7/1 ARM Jumbo 5.125...0.125 4.575...30	7/1 ARM Jumbo 5.125...0.125 4.575...30	Apply and lock online 24/7 Open Sat. and Sun. from 9am til 2pm Rates and Fees Posted Online Daily	
Bank of America 877-88-FIXED DREF #13606	30-yr Fixed 5.375...1.000 5.443...60	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.625...1.000 5.818...30	15-yr Fixed 4.750...1.000 4.895...30	6 mo Interest Only 2.750...1.000 2.851...30	6 mo Interest Only 2.750...1.000 2.851...30	100% Financing Available - Fast Closings! No Cost for Appraisal - Refinance Today! Low/Moderate Income Programs Available	
Bank of America-CC County 925-688-3760 DREF #13406	30-yr Fixed 5.750...0.309 5.847...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.875...0.069 5.957...30	6 month ARM 3.125...0.067 3.211...30	3/1 ARM 4.375...0.116 3.959...30	3/1 ARM 4.375...0.116 3.959...30	*Purchase only. Call or email colette.weeks@bankofamerica.com candice.zemeno@bankofamerica.com	
BayCal Financial Corp. 408-719-6800 DREF #1116696	30-yr Fixed 5.250...1.250 5.473...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.500...1.250 5.662...30	5/1 ARM Jmb IO 4.375...0.000 4.421...30	3/1 ARM Jumbo IO 4.375...0.000 3.920...30	3/1 ARM Jumbo IO 4.375...0.000 3.920...30	100% Home Financing Programs up to 1 MIL Interest Only to 2 MIL, 6 MOS, 3/1, 1/28 Days Lock, NEW Construction Home PUR	
California Mtge. Advisors 888-CAL-REFI x600 DREF #1170688	30-yr Fixed 5.500...0.000 5.599...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.875...0.000 5.915...30	3/1 ARM Jumbo 4.125...0.000 4.161...30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.625...0.000 4.662...30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.625...0.000 4.662...30	DIRECT LENDER LOANS TO 10 MILLION WWW.CALMTG.COM	
Cal-State Funding 800-883-5363 DREF #0957441	30-yr Fixed 5.750...0.000 5.873...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 6.000...0.000 6.040...30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.750...0.000 4.790...30	3/1 ARM Jumbo 4.250...0.000 4.290...30	3/1 ARM Jumbo 4.250...0.000 4.290...30	Cal-State Funding. CAN fund your loan. Rates change daily, call for latest rates. We are here to suit your needs	
CMG Mortgage Services 800-958-5339 DREF #170028	30-yr Fixed 5.375...1.000 5.529...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.625...1.250 5.767...30	3/1 ARM Jumbo 3.500...1.000 3.805...30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.375...1.000 4.485...30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.375...1.000 4.485...30	Open Sat & Sun. Qual. Quicker & stated income option available. Financing for people with less than perfect credit	
Custom Mortgage Solutions 800-259-9510 DOCH #0389894	30-yr Fixed 5.375...0.625 5.497...35	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.875...0.000 5.915...35	15-yr Fixed 4.750...0.500 4.955...35	CODI 30 YEAR ARM 1.194...0.000 4.880...60	CODI 30 YEAR ARM 1.194...0.000 4.880...60	Purchase, Refinance or Cashout. Good and Bad Credit. Specialist. Open 7 Days. *Potential Nag-Arm.	
ditech.com 800-395-1376 DOCH #132004	30-yr Fixed 5.125...2.000 5.422...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.500...2.000 5.749...30	15-yr Fixed 4.375...2.000 4.872...30	15-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.000...2.000 5.399...30	15-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.000...2.000 5.399...30	Apply online at www.ditech.com . *Your mortgage solution. Delivered!	
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EMERYVILLE

TOTAL SALES: 9
LOWEST PRICE: \$171,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$453,500
MEDIAN PRICE: \$355,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$331,889

KENSINGTON

TOTAL SALES: 3
LOWEST PRICE: \$652,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$700,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$669,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$673,667

OAKLAND

TOTAL SALES: 91

PILDMONT

TOTAL SALES: 2
LOWEST PRICE: \$820,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$1,100,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$960,000

RICHMOND

TOTAL SALES: 40
LOWEST PRICE: \$75,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$692,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$343,550

SAN LORRENZO

TOTAL SALES: 7
LOWEST PRICE: \$345,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$440,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$387,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$391,286

information from the County Recorder's Office. Neither California Resource nor this newspaper guarantees the completeness or accuracy of the information. All questions should be directed to CalResource@aol.com. Call 209-365-6663.

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IN THE BAY-O-VISTA AREA
3 Bdrm./2.5 Bath. Open Living Room, Extra Large Kitchen and Living Room, 2 Fireplaces, View. \$675,000

14640 OUTRIGGER DR.
2 Bdrm./1 Bath. \$305,000

14582 OUTRIGGER DR.
2 Bdrm./2 Bath. \$305,000

2511 GALLEON PL.
2 Bdrm./1 Bath. \$295,000

14640 OUTRIGGER DR.
2 Bdrm./1 Bath. \$299,500

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Jumbo 3/1	4.75%	4.778%

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Elegant New Traditional, Oakland

Located on The Piedmont Side of Montclair, very established and desirable neighborhood, this brand new home sits on a shared (soon to be gated) road known as La Gracia Estates. Enjoy breathtaking panoramic views of the Bay, bridges, SF and dramatic mountains. Exquisite finishes including mahogany floors, elaborate mouldings, handcrafted iron railings and chandeliers, cherry cabinets, fabric granite, and extensive slate balconies. Ideal entertaining with potentially three living rooms, an incredibly beautiful master bathroom, fireplace, a library, three-car garage and driveway.

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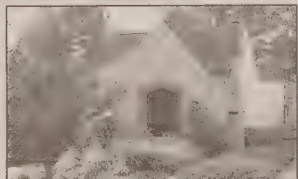
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GLENVIEW \$559,000

New listing! Spanish/Mediterranean in Upper Glenview. Three bedrooms, two baths on main floor, one bedroom, one bath in lower-in-law unit. Hardwood flooring, formal dining, gas kitchen with upgrades, breakfast, Attached garage. Level-out patio and garden. HAL CASTLE



OAKMORE \$679,500

Three plus bedrooms, two plus baths with remodeled kitchen. Deep, fully-landscaped lot. Living room with fireplace and vaulted ceiling, formal dining room, master suite with balcony overlooking garden, two bonus rooms, laundry room. Excellent location! NICK LAVROV



EL CERRITO HILLS \$779,000

Dramatic spacious contemporary offers 3,300+ sq. ft. of panoramic bay views. Three+ bedroom, two+ bath house with additional two bedroom, one bath legal unit with current income. Updated throughout. Built in 1988. Don't miss home office & patio! ISMAIL ABDULLAH



MONTCLAIR \$629,000

New listing! Spectacular Contemporary Built on steel. Very light and bright. 4+ bedrooms, 3 baths, hardwood flooring, formal dining, breakfast, home office. Large separate family room. Master suite with 2nd fireplace. Attached garage. Fenced yard for dog. HAL CASTLE



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LAKE MERRITT \$400,000

Sweeping views of the lake, downtown Oakland, Chinatown and out to the San Francisco Peninsula are seen from their two bedroom, two bath co-op in this "white glove" hi-rise. Amenities include eat-in kitchen, elegant decor, European chandelier and 24 hour doorman service. Call for appointment. TOM ERWIN



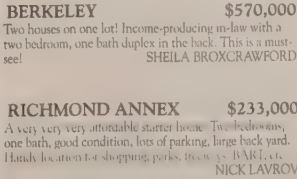
LAKE MERRITT \$365,000

Picture postcard view of Lake Merritt and the East Bay Hills from this 1,600 sq. ft. two bedroom, two bath co-op. Parquet floors, wood shutters throughout, European chandeliers and an updated kitchen are some of the amenities. This "white glove" building has secure parking and 24 hour doorman service. Shown by appointment. TOM ERWIN



LAKE MERRITT \$425,000

Spacious two bedroom two bath condo with Lake Merritt views located on the third floor of The Bellevue-Sutton. Amenities include wood-burning fireplace, formal dining room, a master bedroom retreat, abundant storage and in-unit laundry. 24 hour doorman/valet services included. Shown by appointment. TOM ERWIN



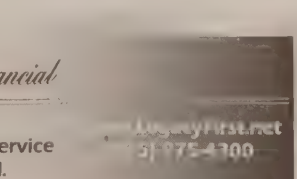
BERKELEY \$570,000

Two houses on one lot! Income-producing in-law with a two bedroom, one bath duplex in the back. This is a must-see! SHEILA BROXCRAWFORD



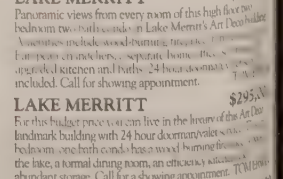
RICHMOND ANNEX \$233,000

A very very affordable starter home. Two bedrooms, one bath, good condition, lots of parking, large back yard. Handy location for shopping parks, BART, etc. NICK LAVROV



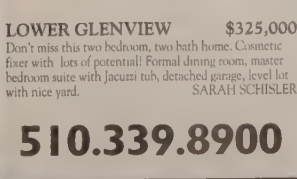
LOWER GLENVIEW \$325,000

Don't miss this two bedroom, two bath home. Cosmetic fixer with lots of potential! Formal dining room, master bedroom suite with Jacuzzi tub, detached garage, level lot with nice yard. SARAH SCHISLER



LAKE MERRITT \$849,000

Panoramic views from every room of this high floor two bedroom two bathroom in Lake Merritt's Art Deco building. Amenities include wood-burning fireplace, European chandeliers, separate home office, hardwood kitchen and baths. 24 hour doorman/valet services included. Call for showing appointment. TOM ERWIN



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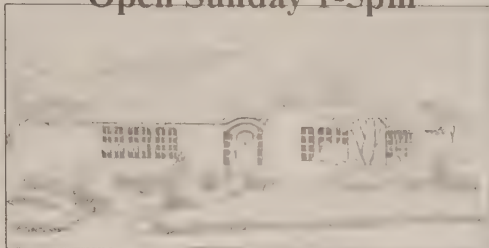
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Overlooking 11,060 sq. ft. Lot.



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\$1,148,000
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Offers November 26th,
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5 WOODSIDE GLEN COURT

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Real Estate

Thanksgiving Day
Display Advertising Deadlines

for
Friday, Nov. 28th

Space Reservation: Friday, Nov. 21 - 10 am
Copy Deadline: Monday, Nov. 24 - 10 am

Friday

OPEN HOME GUIDE - In-Column Ads

Tuesday, Nov. 25th - 11:00 am

Happy Thanksgiving Real Estate Advertising Dept.

Kris Maples 510-262-2799
Joyce Thompson 510-748-1688
Rachelle Whitfield 510-262-2740
Emily Wallace 510-262-2755

WEEKEND OPEN HOMES

Open Sunday, unless otherwise indicated

www.contra-costahomes.com

Alameda	Alameda	Berkeley	Oakland	Oakland
\$294,500 601 E Willow St #E 2BD/1BA Open Sun 2-4 510-814-4829 Harbor Bay Realty Margaret Lomba	\$1,200,000 2067 San Jose Ave 5BD/3.5BA Open Sat & Sun 2-4 510-814-4815 Harbor Bay Realty Nancy Gordon	\$1,750,000 2245 Glen Ave. 4BD/3BA Open Sun 2-4:30 510-339-4700 Coldwell Banker Becky Andersen	\$245,000 1247 82nd Ave 2+BD/2BA Open Sun 2:30-4:30 510-273-9611 Prudential Ca Realty Karron Martin	\$367,000 3520 64th Ave. 5BD/3.5BA Open Sun 2-4:30 510-273-9611 Coldwell Banker Karyn Martin
\$319,500 2115 Central Ave #8 2BD/1.5BA Open Sun 2-4 510-814-4884 Harbor Bay Realty Izabella Lipetski	\$1,250,000 2070 San Jose Ave 4BD/2BA Open Sun 2-4 Main Island 510-523-0746 Kane & Associates Mindy Hart	\$549,000 1155 King Ct 3+BD/1BA Open Sun 1:30-4:30 510-292-2013 Red Oak Realty Todd Andrew	\$249,000 5343 Broadway Terr. #201 1BD/1BA Sun. 2-4:30 510-338-1368 Pacific Union Real Estate Ashley O'Neill	\$373,000 2801 Eastman Ave 3BD/2BA Open Sun 2-5 510-338-1368 Red Oak Realty
\$359,000 1027 Verdemar Dr. 2BD/1BA Open Sun 2-4 510-814-4842 Harbor Bay Realty Coly Centanni-Young	\$549,000 1175 Sante Fe Ave. 2+BD/1BA SAT/SUN 2-4 510-523-0746 By Owner	\$550,000 6245 Cypress Ave 2 units 510-868-1950 X250 Open Sun 2-4 2 units 510-280-2139 Thornwall Properties Helen Walker	\$260,000 9901 Heskett Road 2+BD/1BA Sun. 1-4pm 510-530-6330 Assist-2-Sell Howard Kane	\$379,000 3139 Harrison St 3BD/2BA Open Sat & Sun 2-4 510-530-6330 Kane & Associates David Kane
\$425,000 301 Broadway #201 2BD/2BA Open Sun 2-4 510-407-0351 Kane & Associates Debbie Jacobs	\$373,000 2201 California St 2BD/1BA Open Sun 2-5 510-280-2139 Red Oak Realty Diane Ohlsson	\$779,000 6501 Barrett Ave. 5+BD/3+BA Sun. 2-4:30 510-798-4802 C21 Heritage Real Estate Ismail Abdullah	\$270,000 1707 65th Ave. 2+BD/1BA Sun. 1-4pm 510-530-6330 Assist-2-Sell Howard Kane	\$389,000 3206 Hannah #4 3BD/2BA Open Sun 2-4 510-530-6330 Marvin Gardens Vanessa Dineen
\$439,000 1210 Pacific Ave 3BD/1BA Open Sun 2-4 510-814-4871 Harbor Bay Realty Denise Garvine	\$410,000 1620 Martin Luther King Jr Wy 2BD/1BA Open Sun 2-4 510-524-9888x16 Berkeley Hills Realty Jean Auka	\$835,000 803 Craft 5BD/3BA Open Sun. 1-4 510-524-6711 J & K Agt.	\$285,000 7431 Lockwood St 2BD/1BA Open Sun 2-4:30 510-339-9290 Prudential Ca Realty Andreas Furtner	\$399,000 4115 Gregory St 3BD/2BA Open Sun 2-4:30 510-339-9290 Pacific Union Real Estate
\$439,500 3119 El Sereno 4BD/2.5BA Open Sat & Sun 2-4 510-814-4841 Harbor Bay Realty Tom Young	\$475,000 2228 Carleton St 4+BD/1+BA Open Sun 2-4:30 510-280-2138 Red Oak Realty Billy Karp	\$1,275,000 995 Arlington Blvd 3BD/3BA Open Sun 2-4 510-662-8558 Security Pacific R.E. Carla Della Zoppa	\$290,000 5525 Harvey Ave. 2BD/1BA Sun. 1-4pm 510-530-6330 Assist-2-Sell Howard Kane	\$399,000 5234 Belvedere 3BD/2BA Open Sun 2-4:30 510-530-6330 Prudential Ca Realty
\$449,000 741 Central Ave 2BD/1BA Open Sun 2-4 Main Island 510-749-0780 Kane & Associates Lenz Szabo	\$479,500 1637 Stuart St. 2BD/2BA Sun 1-4 510-486-1495 Coldwell Banker Azaria Berhane	\$800,000 1280 61st St 1++/2BA Open Sun 2-4:30 510-868-1447 Prudential Ca Realty Michael Friedman	\$298,500 3320 64th Ave Pl 2BD/1BA Open Sun 2-4:30 510-339-4000 Better Homes Realty Rosemary Greene	\$420,000 4538 Steele St 2BD/1BA Open Sun 2-4:30 510-339-4000 Assist-2-Sell
\$474,000 917 Walnut 2D/2BA Open Sun 2-4 510-589-1908 Kane & Associates Hanna Fry	\$485,000 2053 Oregon 2BD/1BA Open Sun 1-4 510-845-0211 Prudential Ca Realty Heather Sandford	\$299,000 220 Caldecott Ln #105 1BD/1BA Open Sun 2-4:30 510-524-9688x35 Berkeley Hills Realty Denise Millburn	\$299,000 2230 Havenscourt Blvd 2BD/1BA Open Sun 2-4:30 510-845-0211 Prudential Ca Realty Ted Normant	\$425,000 492 Staten Ave. #303 2BD/1BA Open Sun 2-4:30 510-524-9688x35 C21 Heritage Real Estate
\$485,000 2526 Washington Way 2BD/1BA Open Sat & Sun 2-4 510-814-4874/814-4817 Harbor Bay Realty Mark Playsted/Tim Marr	\$489,000 1320 Poe St 3BD/1.5BA Open Sun 2-4:30 510-527-2700 X27 Marvin Gardens Ann Arriola Plant	\$299,000 2230 Havenscourt Blvd 2BD/1BA Open Sun 2-4:30 510-845-0211 Prudential Ca Realty Ted Normant	\$299,000 2872 Delaware St 2BD/1BA Open Sun 2-4:30 510-339-4000 Better Homes Realty Earle Sherk	\$429,000 3127 Monticello Ave 3BD/2BA Open Sat & Sun 2-4 510-524-9688x35 Gallagher & Lindsey Patricia Dimacali
\$499,000 1125 Court St. 3BD/2BA Open Sun 2-4 510-748-1132 Gallagher & Lindsey Dennis Keefe	\$589,000 2741 Garber St #2 2BD/1BA Open Sun 2-4:30 510-339-9290 Prudential Ca Realty Tami Bobb	\$299,000 2872 Delaware St 2BD/1BA Open Sun 2-4:30 510-339-4000 Better Homes Realty Earle Sherk	\$316,000 3459 Paxton Ave 3BD/2BA Open Sun 2-4:30 510-834-2010 Prudential Ca Realty Sandy W. or Thomas	\$449,000 79 Shadow Mountain 3BD/2BA Open Sun 2-4:30 510-524-9688x35 Richardson R.E. Services
\$550,000 2159 Clinton Ave 2+BD/2.25BA Open Sun 2-4 510-522-4449 Gallagher & Lindsey Keiko McDonah	\$629,000 1488 Olympus 4BD/2.5BA Open Sun 2-4:30 510-339-9290 Prudential Ca Realty David Otero	\$319,000 3920 Nevil Ave 2BD/1BA Open Sun 2-4 510-522-4449 Gallagher & Lindsey Keiko McDonah	\$322,000 926 Chester St. 1BD/1BA Sun. 2-4:30 510-339-4700 Coldwell Banker Victor Ratto	\$465,000 7893 Michigan Avenue 3BD/2BA Open Sun 2-4:30 510-339-4700 Realty World Bay Area
\$580,000 2441 Otis Dr 3+BD/2BA Open Sat & Sun 2-4 510-748-1148 Gallagher & Lindsey Pacita Dimacali	\$655,000 1215 Queens Rd 3BD/2BA Open Sun 2-4 510-835-6218 Red Oak Realty The Longs	\$325,000 3921 Altamont Ave 2BD/1BA Open Sun 2-4:30 510-482-9000 Better Homes Realty Patricia Bennett	\$325,000 1427 12th St. 4BD/2BA Sun. 1-4:30 510-339-4700 Coldwell Banker Victor Ratto	\$469,000 9310 Golf Links Rd 3BD/2BA Open Sun 2-4:30 510-482-9000 Better Homes Realty
\$599,000 1431 Eastshore Dr 3BD/2BA Open Sat 1-4 510-681-5249 Alameda Realty Carol Knight	\$675,000 1127 Bancroft Wy 4BD/3BA Open Sun 2-4 510-835-6218 Red Oak Realty The Longs	\$329,000 1427 12th St. 4BD/2BA Sun. 1-4:30 510-339-4700 Coldwell Banker Victor Ratto	\$329,000 3138 60th Ave 2+BD/1BA Open Sun 1-4 510-873-7708 Prudential Ca Realty Mark Bryant	\$479,000 6201 Thornhill Dr 3BD/2BA Open Sun 2-4:30 510-531-7000x295 Wells & Bennett Realtors Heidi Kearsley
\$599,000 2800 Clay St. 3+BD/1.5BA Open Sun 2-4 510-748-1133 Gallagher & Lindsey Stephanie Neher	\$750,000 745 Woodhaven Rd. 4+BD/2.5BA Sun. 2-4:30 510-652-2133 The Grubb Co. Bebe McRae	\$329,000 1427 12th St. 4BD/2BA Sun. 1-4:30 510-339-4700 Coldwell Banker Victor Ratto	\$329,000 3138 60th Ave 2+BD/1BA Open Sun 1-4 510-873-7708 Prudential Ca Realty Mark Bryant	\$489,000 628 55th St 3BD/2BA Open Sun 2-4:30 510-339-4700 Prudential Ca Realty
\$629,000 1708 Encinal Ave 3BD/2BA Open Sat 2-4 510-523-8886/919-3204 Kane & Associates Denise Brady/Dede Cunningham	\$875,000 2316 Corona Ct. 4BD/2BA Sun. 2-4:30 510-652-2133 The Grubb Co. Diane Verducci	\$329,000 1427 12th St. 4BD/2BA Sun. 1-4:30 510-339-4700 Coldwell Banker Victor Ratto	\$329,000 3138 60th Ave 2+BD/1BA Open Sun 1-4 510-873-7708 Prudential Ca Realty Mark Bryant	\$495,000 2617 San Jose Ave 3BD/2BA Open Sun 2-4 510-339-9290 Gallagher & Lindsey
\$649,000 2913 Bayview Dr. 3BD/2.5BA Open Sat & Sun 2-4 510-865-1635/205-3575 Kane & Associates Lois Hoffman/Andrew Raskopf	\$1,199,950 1418-20 Spruce St 6BD/5BA Open Sun 2-4 510-527-8545 Re/Max Executive Ury Beary	\$329,000 1427 12th St. 4BD/2BA Sun. 1-4:30 510-339-4700 Coldwell Banker Victor Ratto	\$329,000 3138 60th Ave 2+BD/1BA Open Sun 1-4 510-873-7708 Prudential Ca Realty Mark Bryant	\$495,000 2617 San Jose Ave 3BD/2BA Open Sun 2-4 510-339-9290 Gallagher & Lindsey
\$688,000 2117 Encinal Ave 4BD/3BA Open Sat & Sun 2-4 510-747-1620 Gallagher & Lindsey Moon Tam	\$1,395,000 160 Gravatt Dr. 4BD/3.5BA Open Sun 2-4 510-339-0400 The Grubb Co. Karen Starr	\$329,000 1427 12th St. 4BD/2BA Sun. 1-4:30 510-339-4700 Coldwell Banker Victor Ratto	\$329,000 3138 60th Ave 2+BD/1BA Open Sun 1-4 510-873-7708 Prudential Ca Realty Mark Bryant	\$495,000 2617 San Jose Ave 3BD/2BA Open Sun 2-4 510-339-9290 Gallagher & Lindsey
\$689,000 2160 Buena Vista 3+BD/1+BA Open Sat & Sun 2-4 Owners unit 510-522-3153 Centennial Real Estate F. John Manibusan	\$1,550,000 186 Alvarado Rd. 2+BD/2.5BA Sun. 2-4:30 510-652-2133 The Grubb Co. Bebe McRae	\$329,000 1427 12th St. 4BD/2BA Sun. 1-4:30 510-339-4700 Coldwell Banker Victor Ratto	\$329,000 3138 60th Ave 2+BD/1BA Open Sun 1-4 510-873-7708 Prudential Ca Realty Mark Bryant	\$495,000 2617 San Jose Ave 3BD/2BA Open Sun 2-4 510-339-9290 Gallagher & Lindsey
\$795,000 2029 Yorkshire Pl. 4BD/2.5BA Open Sat & Sun 2-4 510-748-1175 Gallagher & Lindsey Anne DeBardelen	\$1,650,000 1705 La Loma Ave. 4+BD/3.5BA Open 2-4:30 510-338-1339 Pacific Union Real Estate Gini Erck	\$329,000 1427 12th St. 4BD/2BA Sun. 1-4:30 510-339-4700 Coldwell Banker Victor Ratto	\$329,000 3138 60th Ave 2+BD/1BA Open Sun 1-4 510-873-7708 Prudential Ca Realty Mark Bryant	\$495,000 2617 San Jose Ave 3BD/2BA Open Sun 2-4 510-339-9290 Gallagher & Lindsey

Weekend OPEN HOMES

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Oakland	Oakland	Oakland	Pinole
<p>3221 Blandon Rd 3BD/2BA 510-428-0900 Anne Risk</p> <p>4481 Mattis Ct. 3BD/2BA 510-338-1303 Wendy Gardner-Ferrari</p> <p>3539 Victor Ave. 4BD/2BA 510-338-1309 Lee Jacobson</p> <p>8010 Hanson Dr 4BD/2.5BA 510-339-4000 Rosemary Greene</p> <p>2985 Rhoda Ave 5+BD/3+BA 510-415-3605 Garvin Lee</p> <p>1540 Holman Rd 2+1/2BA 510-834-2010 Dolores Thom</p> <p>1626 Hampel St. 4BD/3BA 510-339-9778 Hal Castle</p> <p>4080 Harding Way 3+BD/2BA 510-339-4700 Judy Ackerman</p> <p>5800 Nottingham Dr 3BD/2BA 510-428-0900 Herman Luna</p> <p>6625 Thornhill Dr. 3BD/2BA 510-339-0400 Dana Cohen</p> <p>4660 Dolores Ave. 3+BD/2BA 510-531-7000x239 Don Dunning</p> <p>1 Chico Ct. 2+BD/1BA 510-338-1308 Dick Cohen</p> <p>5959 Balboa Dr. 3+BD/2BA 510-338-1319 Ann Nichols</p> <p>6155 Westover Dr. 3+BD/2.5BA 510-339-6460 Dick C/Sandi K</p> <p>3686 Redwood Rd. 3BD/2+BA 510-336-3703</p>	<p>92 Mandalay 3BD/1.5BA 510-486-1495 Cheryl Cahn</p> <p>4967 Stoneridge Ct. 3BD/2.5BA 510-338-1310 Robyn Mohr</p> <p>373 4th St. #2A 1BD/1BD 510-531-7000x232 Tracy Butler</p> <p>299 Elysian Fields 3BD/2.5BA 510-569-3499 Georgia Richardson</p> <p>6666 Sobrante Rd. 4BD/2.5BA 510-339-4700 Dan Joy</p> <p>1072 Trestle Glen Rd. 3BD/2BA 510-339-0400 Steve Michalides</p> <p>7007 Exeter Drive 2+BD/2BA 510-339-4700 Linda Van Drent</p> <p>8040 Broadway Terrace 2BD/2BA 510-339-4700 Elena Stone</p> <p>6218 View Crest Dr 2+BD/2BA 510-845-0211 Barbara Hopper</p> <p>2609 Mountain Gate Wy. 3+BD/2.5BA 510-338-1343 Kathleen Callahan</p> <p>1443 Mountain Blvd. 3BD/1.5BA 510-339-4700 Ellen Lancaster</p> <p>2020 Leimert 4BD/2BA 510-521-1177 Peter Fletcher</p> <p>6865 Oakwood Dr. 4BD/3.5BA 510-339-0400 Mavis Delacroix</p> <p>6166 Valley View Rd. 4BD/3.5BA 510-338-1357 Francis Heath</p> <p>7400 Skyline Blvd 4BD/2.5BA 510-339-4566 Maria Sinclair</p>	<p>35 Agnes 4BD/3BA 510-428-0900 Barbara McQuaid</p> <p>5 Woodside Glen Ct. 4BD/2.5BA 510-338-1388 Teri C/Francis H</p> <p>6163 Ridgmont Drive 3BD 510-339-9398 Ed Bell</p> <p>6773 Sobrante Rd 3+BD/2.5BA 510-339-9290 Kriss Makris</p> <p>2272 Leimert Blvd. 4BD/3+BA 510-339-0400 Debra Dryden</p> <p>601 Via Rialto 4BD/3BA 510-338-1331 David Ichikawa</p> <p>1293 Sunnyhills Rd. 4BD/2.5BA 510-339-0400 Sandra Vogl</p> <p>6820 Thornhill Dr 4+BD/4BA 510-339-9290 Howard Converse</p> <p>195 Roble Rd. 3+BD/2.5BA 510-339-0400 Ford/Plowright</p> <p>6122 Ocean View 4+BD/3BA 510-428-0900 Scott Thompson</p> <p>7 White Ct 5BD/3.5BA 510-339-9290 Heldi Marchesotti</p> <p>6193 Rutland 4BD/3.5BA 510-339-4550 Nahid Nassiri</p> <p>818 Northvale Rd. 5+BD/4BA 510-338-1348 Fritz Hochfelner</p> <p>5763 Scarborough Dr 4+BD/3.5BA 510-339-9290 Heldi Marchesotti</p> <p>6877 Elverton 3+BD/4.5BA 510-339-4700 Gary Robinson</p>	<p>6151 Acacia Ave. 4BD/4+BA 510-339-0400 Elizabeth Dickson</p> <p>5963 Wood Dr 5BD/4+BA 510-526-4566 Lorraine Osmundson</p> <p>1628 Grand View Dr. 5+BD/5BA 510-339-4700 Terry Anthony</p> <p>5 Diablo Dr. 5BD/5+BA 510-339-0400 Debra J. Dryden</p> <p>6 Perth Pl. 4BD/3BA 510-531-7006x295 Heldi Kearsley</p> <p>20 Stephens Way 4+BD/3.5BA 510-339-4700 Joan Duffield</p> <p>5616 La Salle Ave. 5+BD/5+BA 510-339-0400 Debra J. Dryden</p>
Oakland	Oakland	Oakland	Pinole
<p>1549 Holman Rd 2+1/2BA 510-834-2010 Dolores Thom</p> <p>1626 Hampel St. 4BD/3BA 510-339-9778 Hal Castle</p> <p>4080 Harding Way 3+BD/2BA 510-339-4700 Judy Ackerman</p> <p>5800 Nottingham Dr 3BD/2BA 510-428-0900 Herman Luna</p> <p>6625 Thornhill Dr. 3BD/2BA 510-339-0400 Dana Cohen</p> <p>4660 Dolores Ave. 3+BD/2BA 510-531-7000x239 Don Dunning</p> <p>1 Chico Ct. 2+BD/1BA 510-338-1308 Dick Cohen</p> <p>5959 Balboa Dr. 3+BD/2BA 510-338-1319 Ann Nichols</p> <p>6155 Westover Dr. 3+BD/2.5BA 510-339-6460 Dick C/Sandi K</p> <p>3686 Redwood Rd. 3BD/2+BA 510-336-3703</p>	<p>92 Mandalay 3BD/1.5BA 510-486-1495 Cheryl Cahn</p> <p>4967 Stoneridge Ct. 3BD/2.5BA 510-338-1310 Robyn Mohr</p> <p>373 4th St. #2A 1BD/1BD 510-531-7000x232 Tracy Butler</p> <p>299 Elysian Fields 3BD/2.5BA 510-569-3499 Georgia Richardson</p> <p>6666 Sobrante Rd. 4BD/2.5BA 510-339-4700 Dan Joy</p> <p>1072 Trestle Glen Rd. 3BD/2BA 510-339-0400 Steve Michalides</p> <p>7007 Exeter Drive 2+BD/2BA 510-339-4700 Linda Van Drent</p> <p>8040 Broadway Terrace 2BD/2BA 510-339-4700 Elena Stone</p> <p>6218 View Crest Dr 2+BD/2BA 510-845-0211 Barbara Hopper</p> <p>2609 Mountain Gate Wy. 3+BD/2.5BA 510-338-1343 Kathleen Callahan</p> <p>1443 Mountain Blvd. 3BD/1.5BA 510-339-4700 Ellen Lancaster</p> <p>2020 Leimert 4BD/2BA 510-521-1177 Peter Fletcher</p> <p>6865 Oakwood Dr. 4BD/3.5BA 510-339-0400 Mavis Delacroix</p> <p>6166 Valley View Rd. 4BD/3.5BA 510-338-1357 Francis Heath</p> <p>7400 Skyline Blvd 4BD/2.5BA 510-339-4566 Maria Sinclair</p>	<p>35 Agnes 4BD/3BA 510-428-0900 Barbara McQuaid</p> <p>5 Woodside Glen Ct. 4BD/2.5BA 510-338-1388 Teri C/Francis H</p> <p>6163 Ridgmont Drive 3BD 510-339-9398 Ed Bell</p> <p>6773 Sobrante Rd 3+BD/2.5BA 510-339-9290 Kriss Makris</p> <p>2272 Leimert Blvd. 4BD/3+BA 510-339-0400 Debra Dryden</p> <p>601 Via Rialto 4BD/3BA 510-338-1331 David Ichikawa</p> <p>1293 Sunnyhills Rd. 4BD/2.5BA 510-339-0400 Sandra Vogl</p> <p>6820 Thornhill Dr 4+BD/4BA 510-339-9290 Howard Converse</p> <p>195 Roble Rd. 3+BD/2.5BA 510-339-0400 Ford/Plowright</p> <p>6122 Ocean View 4+BD/3BA 510-428-0900 Scott Thompson</p> <p>7 White Ct 5BD/3.5BA 510-339-9290 Heldi Marchesotti</p> <p>6193 Rutland 4BD/3.5BA 510-339-4550 Nahid Nassiri</p> <p>818 Northvale Rd. 5+BD/4BA 510-338-1348 Fritz Hochfelner</p> <p>5763 Scarborough Dr 4+BD/3.5BA 510-339-9290 Heldi Marchesotti</p> <p>6877 Elverton 3+BD/4.5BA 510-339-4700 Gary Robinson</p>	<p>6151 Acacia Ave. 4BD/4+BA 510-339-0400 Elizabeth Dickson</p> <p>5963 Wood Dr 5BD/4+BA 510-526-4566 Lorraine Osmundson</p> <p>1628 Grand View Dr. 5+BD/5BA 510-339-4700 Terry Anthony</p> <p>5 Diablo Dr. 5BD/5+BA 510-339-0400 Debra J. Dryden</p> <p>6 Perth Pl. 4BD/3BA 510-531-7006x295 Heldi Kearsley</p> <p>20 Stephens Way 4+BD/3.5BA 510-339-4700 Joan Duffield</p> <p>5616 La Salle Ave. 5+BD/5+BA 510-339-0400 Debra J. Dryden</p>
Oakland	Oakland	Oakland	Pinole
<p>1549 Holman Rd 2+1/2BA 510-834-2010 Dolores Thom</p> <p>1626 Hampel St. 4BD/3BA 510-339-9778 Hal Castle</p> <p>4080 Harding Way 3+BD/2BA 510-339-4700 Judy Ackerman</p> <p>5800 Nottingham Dr 3BD/2BA 510-428-0900 Herman Luna</p> <p>6625 Thornhill Dr. 3BD/2BA 510-339-0400 Dana Cohen</p> <p>4660 Dolores Ave. 3+BD/2BA 510-531-7000x239 Don Dunning</p> <p>1 Chico Ct. 2+BD/1BA 510-338-1308 Dick Cohen</p> <p>5959 Balboa Dr. 3+BD/2BA 510-338-1319 Ann Nichols</p> <p>6155 Westover Dr. 3+BD/2.5BA 510-339-6460 Dick C/Sandi K</p> <p>3686 Redwood Rd. 3BD/2+BA 510-336-3703</p>	<p>92 Mandalay 3BD/1.5BA 510-486-1495 Cheryl Cahn</p> <p>4967 Stoneridge Ct. 3BD/2.5BA 510-338-1310 Robyn Mohr</p> <p>373 4th St. #2A 1BD/1BD 510-531-7000x232 Tracy Butler</p> <p>299 Elysian Fields 3BD/2.5BA 510-569-3499 Georgia Richardson</p> <p>6666 Sobrante Rd. 4BD/2.5BA 510-339-4700 Dan Joy</p> <p>1072 Trestle Glen Rd. 3BD/2BA 510-339-0400 Steve Michalides</p> <p>7007 Exeter Drive 2+BD/2BA 510-339-4700 Linda Van Drent</p> <p>8040 Broadway Terrace 2BD/2BA 510-339-4700 Elena Stone</p> <p>6218 View Crest Dr 2+BD/2BA 510-845-0211 Barbara Hopper</p> <p>2609 Mountain Gate Wy. 3+BD/2.5BA 510-338-1343 Kathleen Callahan</p> <p>1443 Mountain Blvd. 3BD/1.5BA 510-339-4700 Ellen Lancaster</p> <p>2020 Leimert 4BD/2BA 510-521-1177 Peter Fletcher</p> <p>6865 Oakwood Dr. 4BD/3.5BA 510-339-0400 Mavis Delacroix</p> <p>6166 Valley View Rd. 4BD/3.5BA 510-338-1357 Francis Heath</p> <p>7400 Skyline Blvd 4BD/2.5BA 510-339-4566 Maria Sinclair</p>	<p>35 Agnes 4BD/3BA 510-428-0900 Barbara McQuaid</p> <p>5 Woodside Glen Ct. 4BD/2.5BA 510-338-1388 Teri C/Francis H</p> <p>6163 Ridgmont Drive 3BD 510-339-9398 Ed Bell</p> <p>6773 Sobrante Rd 3+BD/2.5BA 510-339-9290 Kriss Makris</p> <p>2272 Leimert Blvd. 4BD/3+BA 510-339-0400 Debra Dryden</p> <p>601 Via Rialto 4BD/3BA 510-338-1331 David Ichikawa</p> <p>1293 Sunnyhills Rd. 4BD/2.5BA 510-339-0400 Sandra Vogl</p> <p>6820 Thornhill Dr 4+BD/4BA 510-339-9290 Howard Converse</p> <p>195 Roble Rd. 3+BD/2.5BA 510-339-0400 Ford/Plowright</p> <p>6122 Ocean View 4+BD/3BA 510-428-0900 Scott Thompson</p> <p>7 White Ct 5BD/3.5BA 510-339-9290 Heldi Marchesotti</p> <p>6193 Rutland 4BD/3.5BA 510-339-4550 Nahid Nassiri</p> <p>818 Northvale Rd. 5+BD/4BA 510-338-1348 Fritz Hochfelner</p> <p>5763 Scarborough Dr 4+BD/3.5BA 510-339-9290 Heldi Marchesotti</p> <p>6877 Elverton 3+BD/4.5BA 510-339-4700 Gary Robinson</p>	<p>6151 Acacia Ave. 4BD/4+BA 510-339-0400 Elizabeth Dickson</p> <p>5963 Wood Dr 5BD/4+BA 510-526-4566 Lorraine Osmundson</p> <p>1628 Grand View Dr. 5+BD/5BA 510-339-4700 Terry Anthony</p> <p>5 Diablo Dr. 5BD/5+BA 510-339-0400 Debra J. Dryden</p> <p>6 Perth Pl. 4BD/3BA 510-531-7006x295 Heldi Kearsley</p> <p>20 Stephens Way 4+BD/3.5BA 510-339-4700 Joan Duffield</p> <p>5616 La Salle Ave. 5+BD/5+BA 510-339-0400 Debra J. Dryden</p>
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Oilers set for NCS opener

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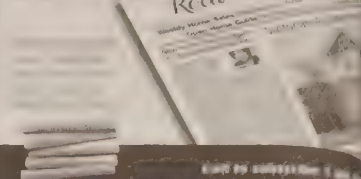
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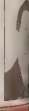
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SPORTS

• Friday, November 21, 2003 •

Section C

Panthers' Winton a quick study at golf

By Orlando Molina
STAFF WRITER

Winton didn't expect to happen when it came to golf for St. Mary's High. She expected some exercise, laughs and some quality time under the sun. But after the sport a year ago, she found herself as the school's female golfer to make all-around advance to the North Coast Section tournament.

"I was a bright student, a good athlete," said Pan-ther coach Phil Doran. "She was a freshman and just better." Winton, who considers herself athletic, said her dad had been years to get her into the sport. She said her family made her know how to swing and throw a football, but she wasn't there. "I didn't think much of the sport. I tried using my baseball bat if I was hitting a low

PREP GOLF

pitch. I didn't have a knack for it," she said.

But during her freshman year, her friend and eventual teammate Jaclyn McKethen, brought her clubs over to the house to show off her swing. It was during that backyard session that Winton finally was bitten by the golfing bug.

"My dad tried to teach me, and I was stubborn. My friend came over and I listened to her," she said. "My dad was grateful for her help."

The two decided to try out for the golf team, which Winton said was more like just showing up because the team was so small.

Although there were low expectations, Winton put in the time and effort to learn the basics of the game, much to the delight of her coach.

"Golf is a hard game at first. There's lots of technique," Doran said. "The only way to get good is to practice. There's lots of

growing pains with it, but you have to be disciplined."

Finding time to practice was not difficult, given that her entire family loves the sport and often golfs together in their spare time.

Winton admits her game is far from perfect. Specifically, she thinks her short game could use some more polishing. But at the Bay Shore Athletic League tournament Oct. 20, she showed her hard work was paying off.

Winton shot a 106, tied with Jasmine Ventura of St. Patrick. As a result, the two began a playoff hole for the last NCS slot. However, the playoff was not necessary as a player unexpectedly pulled out and Winton was on her way to finishing among the BSAL's top 10 with all-league honors.

The accomplishment did not go unnoticed by her schoolmates.

"They were so supportive. My friends put up a banner wishing me luck in the cafeteria the day before NCS. Everybody was wishing me luck. I felt so special," she said.

Two weeks after her improbable feat, Winton found herself at Las Positas Golf Course in Pleasanton competing for an NCS title.

The title never made it her way, but she shot the best round of her short career with a 92. Her previous best was 106.

According to Doran, Winton also shot a 41 on the back nine to beat her previous nine-hole best by five strokes.

"I never expected to get to NCS. Last year I didn't even know what NCS was," she said.

The high school golf season is over, but Winton still enjoys practicing on the side. She said she wasn't sure if she'd return for another season because the school's theater productions conflict with golf and acting is another one of her interests.

She did admit, though, to leaning toward a return.

"I feel pressure from myself. I feel like I owe it to the school and to myself to keep going," she said.



GREGORY JORDAN/STAFF
MARGO WINTON is St. Mary's first female golfer to make all-league and qualify for NCS, where she shot a personal-best round of 92.

AL NOTEBOOK

Homets get respect with seed

By Phil Jensen

STAFF WRITER

THE ALAMEDA CONTRA COSTA ATHLETIC League landed two teams North Coast Section playoffs — that's not a surprise for a team earning a No. 1 seed.

"I'm honest with you, we were expecting that," coach Kevin Henrich said. "We thought Clay-son would be the one to bring success in the

uncharted territory for said team."

It is the ACCAL team Homets who are the seed in the NCS 3A East playoffs. Alameda (9-1) is a first-round game at Thompson Field.

No. 8 seed College Park is scheduled for 7 p.m.

What I can tell, they're a really good team," Henrich said. "They have some players at the skill point and it looks like they're coached."

Henrich confirmed that the first time Alameda's team has been in the playoffs since 1978.

See ACCAL, Page 2

AL NOTEBOOK

Highlanders tumble in second round

By Orlando Molina

STAFF WRITER

THE PIEDMONT HIGH School girls tennis team had a strong run for a North Coast Section title Tuesday as far as the quarterfinals of the NCS doubles

team. The Alameda Clark team opened the Pleasanton Tennis Center with a first-round win over Lockwood and

Clark won their first-round match 6-0, 6-2. Clark was promptly

when they took on the team of Bryce and Drew Clark. I seed in the final. Clark and Stutz

found their groove, 6-0, 6-0.

Highlanders' other tans-son over Frizzell and

Clark had a similar run. They won their first-round match 6-4, 7-5 against Pleasanton and Jennifer

Clark. They then hit their first-round match when they took on the team of Laura Schaffer and

Clark. The result was a 6-0, 6-0.

See BSAL, Page 2

PREP FOOTBALL



LODIE LEDESMA/STAFF
ST. MARY'S Fred Hives breaks loose for some of his 193 rushing yards in the Panthers' 24-21 victory over Piedmont last Friday.

St. Mary's wins title showdown

■ Hives comes through on both sides of the ball as the Panthers claim the BSAL crown; they'll face Campolindo in NCS opener

By Scott Strain

STAFF WRITER

PIEDMONT — The Piedmont High School football team got a bad case of the St. Mary's "Hives" last Friday night at Witter Field.

Senior running back Fred Hives scored the go-ahead touchdown on a 2-yard run with 2:14 left in the game then made the game-clinching interception with 30 seconds left as the Panthers (6-4, 4-1) defeated the Highlanders (7-1-1, 4-1) 24-21 to win the Bay Shore Athletic League championship and the league's automatic spot in the North Coast Section 2A East Bay playoffs.

"We just didn't give up," Hives said. "Even when they scored that quick touchdown, we knew we had almost two quarters to play and we knew we could do the job."

Seventh-seeded St. Mary's will play No. 2 Campolindo (9-1) tonight at 7:30 in Moraga in a first-round game of the North Coast Section 2A East Bay playoffs.

The Panthers, who led 12-7 at the half, took an 18-7 lead on their first possession of the third quarter. Quarterback David Pezzola completed a 54-yard pass to Will Reid down to the Piedmont 4-yard line and Jason Haller ran in for the score on the next play. A two-point conversion pass failed (St. Mary's did not convert one PAT attempt) and the Panthers had an 11-point lead with 7:43 left in the third quarter.

But Piedmont's David Tovani, breaking four tackles along the way, ran the kickoff back 50 yards to the St. Mary's 30 and then Highlanders quarterback Corey Steady threw a 30-yard scoring pass to Charlie Nelson on the next play and the Scots were back in it at 18-14 with 7:20 left.

The Panthers got a break early in the fourth quarter when defensive lineman Jon Taranto recovered a Piedmont fumble and then drove 33 yards down to the Highlanders' 11. But a 28-

El Cerrito stays on the ground for 27-22 victory over Berkeley

By Mike Wood

STAFF WRITER

The plan was set for El Cerrito High School for the second half of last Friday night's football game with Berkeley. The Gauchos were to run the ball again and again and force the Yellow Jackets to play catch-up.

Thanks to a big second half from Mario Cox, the strategy worked. The Gauchos walked off their home field 27-22 winners of the Alameda Contra Costa Athletic League contest, concluding the regular season with their sixth straight victory.

Sixth-seeded El Cerrito will

play at No. 3 San Lorenzo (8-2) on Saturday at 1:30 p.m. in a first-round North Coast Section 2A East Bay playoff game.

Cox earned 113 of his game-high 141 yards in the second half, when he rushed for touchdowns of 28 and 3 yards as El Cerrito (7-2-1, 6-1 ACCAL) kept to the ground on its muddy field.

"We knew we had to work hard to win this one," Cox said. "We knew we had to shove it down their throats to win."

But Berkeley (6-3, 5-2) did not pull a disappearing act as its

See GAUCHOS, Page 2

yard Pezzola field-goal attempt was blocked and Piedmont took over.

Piedmont went 76 yards in nine plays to take a 21-18 lead. Steady hit Nelson with a 32-yard curl that saw the senior wide receiver break three tackles and

stretch the ball into the end zone as he was hit a fourth time.

There was still 4:16 left in the game and the Panthers made the most of it. Connie Sowels took the kickoff back 37 yards to the

See PANTHERS, Page 2

PREP VOLLEYBALL

St. Patrick shocks Albany

By Phil Jensen

STAFF WRITER

The visiting St. Patrick High School girls volleyball team (18-9), seeded eighth, shocked North Coast Section Division IV power and No. 1 seed Albany 25-20, 25-21, 14-25, 25-21 Wednesday in the second round of the NCS playoffs.

"I'm completely and totally stunned," Albany coach Jon Segall said. "As a team we were not firing on any cylinders."

"I've never seen St. Patrick play this well, ever, and I've never seen Albany play so badly. (St. Patrick) executed, they got fired up and nothing hit the ground. We were too overconfident."

The Cougars (23-9) had leads of 18-16 in the first and second games and 18-15 in the fourth game, but the Bruins came up with runs to finish off the games with wins.

Both teams compete in the Bay Shore Athletic League. Albany, the four-time defending BSAL champion, beat St. Patrick in three games twice this season, including a 25-6, 25-12, 25-15 win on Oct. 30.

The Cougars finished the regular season with a 12-1 league record before winning the BSAL playoffs.

St. Patrick ended the regular season with a 7-6 league mark and lost in the first round of the BSAL playoffs to Holy Names.

Emma Spearman and Delaney Danielson, Albany's two first-team all-league players, both had the flu but played, Segall said.

"They played well, but they were sick," Segall said.

The Cougars clinched their 10th straight league championship with a 16-25, 25-16, 20-25, 25-18, 15-13 over No. 1 seed St. Joseph Notre Dame (23-4) Saturday night in the Pilots' gym.

The Cougars won six straight Alameda Contra Costa Athletic League titles and have followed it with four BSAL crowns.

"A decade of dominance," said Albany coach Segall, sounding very silver-and-blackish.

"This was toughest one yet; we had to win two tough playoffs (the first a five-gamer against St. Mary's on Thursday) and we had to win here."

The Pilots had swept Albany in three games during the regular season on Oct. 21 and kept winning the remainder of the season to earn the home-court advantage.

But Albany played a lot better in this match than it did in October.

Relaying on the leadership of outside hitter Spearman and setter Danielson, the Cougars were pretty much able to neutralize the heavy hitting of Pilots sisters Sabrina and Kerri Sudarsana.

Staff writer Scott Strain contributed to this story.

SCOREBOARD

Football	
NCS playoffs	
4A	
First round	
Tonight	
No. 6 Castro Valley (7-3) at No. 1 De La Salle (10-0), 7:30 p.m.	
No. 7 Liberty (7-3) at No. 2 Foothill (9-1), 7:30 p.m.	
Saturday	
No. 4 Hayward (8-2) vs. No. 5 Monte Vista (6-2) at Chabot College, 7 p.m.	
No. 6 James Logan (7-2-1) at No. 3 Pittsburg (8-1-1), 7 p.m.	
3A East Bay	
First round	
Tonight	
No. 1 Alameda (9-1) vs. No. 8 College Park (4-6) at Thompson Field, Alameda, 7:30 p.m.	
No. 7 American (5-5) at No. 2 Clayton Valley (8-2), 7:30 p.m.	
Saturday	
No. 5 Las Lomas (8-3-1) at No. 4 San Ramon Valley (6-4), 7 p.m.	
No. 6 Arroyo (5-5) at No. 3 Bishop O'Dowd (6-4), 7 p.m.	
2A East Bay	
First round	
Tonight	
No. 8 Piedmont (7-1-1) at No. 1 Miramonte (9-1), 7:30 p.m.	
No. 7 St. Mary's (8-4) at No. 2 Campolindo (9-1), 7:30 p.m.	
Saturday	
No. 5 Kennedy-Framont (7-3) at No. 4 Altaville (7-3), 7 p.m.	
No. 6 El Cerrito (7-2-1) at No. 3 San Lorenzo (8-2), 1:30 p.m.	
A	
First round	
Tonight	
Willits (6-3) at No. 2 Middletown (10-0), 7:30 p.m.	

John Swett (8-2) at No. 4 Clear Lake (7-3), 7:30 p.m.	
Saturday	
Solisano (5-4-1) at No. 3 Justin-Siena (7-3), 7 p.m.	
Fort Bragg (6-3-1) at No. 1 Ferndale (10-0), 1 p.m.	
Final ACCAL standings	
W L T PF PA Ovr	
Ala 7 0 0 220 91	9-1-0
EC 6 1 0 208 110	7-2-1
Ber 2 0 218 73	6-3-0
DA 3 4 0 170 168	4-6-0
Enc 3 4 0 181 188	5-4-1
PV 3 4 0 172 110	4-6-0
Harc 1 6 0 92 242	1-9-0
Rich 0 7 0 70 349	0-10-0
Friday's results	
El Cerrito 27, Berkeley 22	
De Anza 48, Richmond 6	
Piedmont Valley 38, Hercules 6	
Alameda 30, Encinal 21	
El Cerrito 27, Berkeley 22	
Berkeley 0 8 7 7-22	
El Cerrito 0 0 13 6-27	
Saturday	
EC — Warren 19 interception return (Norman run)	
B — Cokes 11 run (Miles pass from Spellman)	
EC — Tutass 1 run (Griffin kick)	
B — Miles 72 pass from Spellman (Meneses kick)	
EC — Cox 28 run (run failed)	
B — Clark 80 fumble return (Meneses kick)	
First downs	8
Rushing yards	28-74
Passing yards	45-214
Fumbles/lost	4-16-2
Total offense	93
Fumbles/lost	167
O/D	226

Individual statistics	
Rushing B — Cokes 15-69; Clark 5-14; Miles 1-16; Pickett 1-4; Spellman 6-21; EC — Cox 18-141; Shaffer 12-41; Norman 7-28; Tutass 6-4.	
Passing B — Spellman 4-15-2-93; Watson 1 run 0-1-0-0; EC — Tutass 4-11-0-55; Cox 0-1-0-0.	
Receiving B — Miles 3-99; James 1-4-6; EC — Cannon 2-43; Brown 1-8; Blackwood 1-4.	
Records El Cerrito 7-2-1, 8-1 ACCAL; Berkeley 6-3-0, 5-2.	
Final BSAL standings	
W L T PF PA Ovr	
SM 4 1 0 128 65	6-4-0
Pied 4 1 0 164 70	7-1-1
JSW 3 2 0 128 63	8-2-0
SP 2 3 0 75 98	6-4-0
Alb 2 3 0 105 148	2-8-0
Kenn 0 5 0 33 192	0-9-0
Friday's results	
Albany 27, Kennedy 6	
St. Mary's 24, Piedmont 21	
John Swett 10, St. Patrick 0	
Albany 27, Kennedy 6	
Kennedy 0 0 0 0-0-6	
Albany 14 0 0 13-27	
K — Lopez 6 pass from Bry Edwards (kick blocked)	
A — B. Phelps 13 run (Fernandez kick)	
A — Slaughter 53 run (Fernandez kick)	
A — B. Phelps 1 run (kick blocked)	
A — B. Phelps 5 run (Fernandez kick)	
First downs	12
Rushing yards	19-39
Passing yards	13-31
Passing yards	151
Total offense	170
Fumbles/lost	5/1
353	
Individual statistics	
Rushing K — Martin 4-22; Bran, Ed-	

wards 4-14; Bry Edwards 7-9; Lopez 3-4; Piam 1-10; A. Joyner 1-10; Slaughter 10-99; B. Phelps 17-96; Tessema 2-10; Harding 1-1; Hargre 1-1; Southern 4-0; Johnson 2-3.	
Passing K — Bry Edwards 4-7-1-47; Martin 2-4 0 64; A. Joyner 2-4 0 2; Piam 3-47; Williams 3-34; Brown 2-13; Lopez 1-6; A. Phelps 1-3; Slaughter 1-1.	
Receiving K — Bry Edwards 2-8; BSAL; Kennedy 0-9, 0-5.	
St. Mary's 24, Piedmont 21	
St. Mary's 0 12 8 8-24	
Piedmont 7 0 7 7-21	
P — Paris 1 run (Lindenmeyer kick)	
SM — Hives 17 run (kick failed)	
SM — Kiven 3 pass from Pezzola (kick failed)	
SM — Haller 4 run (pass failed)	
P — Nelson 30 pass from Steady (Lindenmeyer kick)	
P — Nelson 32 pass from Steady (Lindenmeyer kick)	
SM — Hives 2 run (run failed)	
First downs	
Rushing yards	50-258
Passing yards	29-121
Passing yards	158
Total offense	418
Fumbles/lost	3/1
2/1	
Individual statistics	
Rushing SM — Hives 25-193; Haller 17-59; Sowels 2-1; Pezzola 1-0; Kiven 1-0.	
Passing SM — Paris 21-115; Shuster 4-21; Steady 2-0; Tovan 2-15.	
P — Steady 8-22-0 164; Tovan 0-1-0 158	
Receiving SM — Reid 4-125; Kiven 2-14; Hives 2-5; Haller 1-14; P — Nelson 5-101; Tovan 1-38; Shuster 1-13; Brown 1-12.	
Records St. Mary's 6-4, 4-1 BSAL; Piedmont 7-1-1, 4-1.	

Gauchos

FROM PAGE 1

hopes faded. El Cerrito seemed ready to ice the game, holding a 27-15 lead and marching to the Yellow Jackets 17 as the clock ticked under the four-minute mark. But Berkeley's Daniel Burley rushed into the Gauchos backfield as quarterback Don Miguel Tutass was about to hand off to Ryan Shaifer. Burley knocked the ball loose and Walter Clark picked it up off the bounce and went 80 yards for the score.

Panthers

FROM PAGE 1

Piedmont 40 and Hives, who carried 29 times for 193 yards on the night, did the rest. He carried five times for 38 yards, including a 19-yard run on third-and-three down to the Highlanders 3. He scored from 2 yards out with 2:14 left.

A failed pooch kick gave Piedmont the ball at the St. Mary's 44, but the Highlanders attack sputtered as Steady missed on three straight pass attempts. On fourth-and-10 from the Panthers 29, Piedmont attempted a double reverse halfback pass, but Hives stayed in position and intercepted the pass on his own 10. The Panthers were able to run out the clock.

"We knew they had to pass to get into the end zone," Hives said. "I just read it (the pass) right, went up and got the ball."

Albany 27, Kennedy 6: The host Cougars (2-8, 2-3 BSAL) broke open a close game with two fourth-quarter touchdowns by Brad Phelps in Anthony Freeman's last game as Albany's coach.

Freeman said he told his team last Friday before the game of his decision to step down. Freeman, who has been Albany's coach for 10 seasons, said he plans to be an assistant coach next season and wants to spend more time as president of the Berkeley Lions/Albany Bobcats youth football organization.

"It was our head coach's last game, so we wanted to get it for him," said Albany's Darrell Joyner, who had a game-high 146 yards rushing.

"They came through," Freeman said.

Albany held a 14-6 lead over

The Yellow Jackets had one final comeback shot with 1:45 left. But quarterback Jeff Spellman was sacked on both third and fourth down to end any mounting threat.

To break an 8-8 halftime tie, the Gauchos began the second half with a 13-play, 61-yard drive that ate up the first 6:42 of the third quarter. The drive finished with a 1-yard keeper touchdown by Tutass. The score was set up by an 18-yard run by Cox, who dragged two defenders to the Berkeley 4.

"We wanted to make (Berkeley) play from behind," El Cer-

rito coach George Austin said. "That was a big drive for us, when we were able to run the ball at them and hold onto it."

But it wasn't enough. The Yellow Jackets struck back two plays later on a 72-yard catch-and-run by Aaron Miles. Miles lost his balance briefly after catching a Spellman pass near the left sideline but cut to the right side. He finished by turning to the middle to score.

Berkeley's leading rusher Antione Cokes had just four carries for minus-4 yards in the second half after carrying 12 times for 73 yards in the first.

Kennedy (0-9, 0-5) entering the fourth quarter before driving 60 yards for a score on its first possession of the quarter. Phelps, who finished with 96 yards rushing, capped the drive with a 1-yard run.

After a four-and-out series by the Eagles, Albany went 67 yards for its final touchdown, a 6-yard run by Phelps. The senior finished with three rushing touchdowns in the game.

The Cougars had three rushers with more than 95 yards. Besides Phelps and Joyner, Jermaine Slaughter added 99 yards rushing and a 53-yard touchdown run.

Kennedy opened the scoring on the first possession of the game with a 6-yard pass from Bryan Edwards to Giovanni Lopez.

Staff writer Phil Jensen contributed to this roundup.

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PREP FOOTBALL POLL

Rank	School	Record	Comment
1.	De La Salle	10-0	Stellar's notch 14th straight undefeated record
2.	Foothill	9-1	RB Willie Keck (5-9, 165) an on-kick effective weapon
3.	Pittsburg	8-1	Lots of big numbers in Big Little Game rout of Antelope
4.	Miramonte	9-1	No. 1 seed in 2A East Bay bracket is familiar territory
5.	Skyline	7-2	Titans take care of business in OAL regular season
6.	Monte Vista	8-2	Mustangs down Petaluma, set to test 4A playoff waters
7.	Campolindo	9-1	Cougars have to work for 13-7 victory over Dublin
8.	Clayton Valley	8-2	Eagles land No. 2 seed in 3A East Bay bracket
9.	Amador Valley	7-3	Likely the region's best team not to make the playoffs
10.	Hayward	8-2	Farmers have a tough first-round assignment in Mountain View

Other receiving votes: Alameda (9-1). The Times football poll incorporates all East Bay Bay Area compiled by the staffs of Contra Costa Newspapers

ACCAL

FROM PAGE 1

El Cerrito (7-2-1) grabbed the No. 6 seed in the NCS 2A East Bay playoffs and will be traveling to face No. 3 San Lorenzo on Saturday at 1:30 p.m.

The Gauchos have won six straight games since a 25-6 loss to Alameda on Oct. 3, the only league loss of the season for El Cerrito. El Cerrito clinched sole possession of second place in the ACCAL with a 27-22 victory

over Berkeley on Friday. Berkeley, a 4A team, finished third in the ACCAL with a 5-2 record (6-3 overall) and coach Matt Bissell said he did not attend Sunday's seeding meeting.

"If we had beat El Cerrito, I would have went. At 6-3, I knew there were eight quality teams (in 4A) that had stronger seasons than we had," Bissell said.

VOLLEYBALL: ACCAL co-champions Encinal and Berkeley both earned berths in the

NCS playoffs, but their seasons ended

The Jets lost to Monte Vista 25-18, 24-25-16 in Division III. Yellow Jackets lost to Valley 25-16, 25-16 in Division I play.

DON'T LOOK NOW: ACCAL soccer season is starting. The games for both soccer will be Dec. 6

BSAL

FROM PAGE 1

playoffs Nov. 11., the Highlanders were shown the door quickly.

Taking on Monte Vista on the road in the first round, the Mustangs pulled off a 4-3 win, ending the Bay Shore Athletic League champions' season.

The Mustangs, the East Bay Athletic League champs, reeled off four straight wins in roughly an hour to win the day. But to the Highlanders' credit,

gle also pulled out the wins in No. 2 and 4.

Both had dropped out and set and roared back. Liz Pollard 2-6, 3-6; Crangle won 3-6; Andreea Waitrovich

Although the match was a clear pushover, Martin, she knew the match that the were in for an up

"(The Mustangs) she said. "They're not and they're good players have good athletes we could do more."

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Absurd 'Gothika' will drive you nuts

By Mary F. Pols
STAFF WRITER

Various characters in "Gothika" independently describe Dr. Miranda Grey, played by Halle Berry, as a "brilliant" criminal psychologist.

Having spent 90 minutes or so in Miranda's company, we beg to differ. Granted, she does spend half the movie being fed anti-psychotic drugs against her will, so she might not exactly be on her game, but still, we'd prefer "naive" or "deluded" to brilliant.

"Gothika," an absurdly overstylized mishmash of horror story and formulaic thriller — the sort where the falsely accused protagonist must clear his or her own name — is a preposterous movie, and Berry is preposterous in it.

Miranda wakes up one morning after a bad drive home in the rain and finds herself locked up in the very same penitentiary where she counsels the criminally insane. She stands accused of brutally killing her own husband, an event she doesn't recall. Moreover, she seems genuinely delusional.

We have only a few establishing scenes with Miranda before madness descends, none of which inspires great confidence. We learn that the prison has an

REVIEW

■ **WHAT:** "Gothika"

■ **STARRING:** Halle Berry, Robert Downey Jr., Charles S. Dutton, Penelope Cruz

■ **RATING:** R (violence, brief language and nudity)

■ **RUNNING TIME:** 1 hour, 35 minutes

■ **WHERE:** Opens today at area theaters

■ **GRADE:** D

electricity problem, which causes the lights to go out or blink ominously every five minutes or so. We see her treating a whacked-out patient named Chloe (Penelope Cruz) with all the skill of a bank teller, rebuffing the longing glances of a co-worker, Peter (Robert Downey Jr.), and whining to her boss, Doug (Charles S. Dutton), a plump, cigar-chomping authoritarian, that Chloe isn't getting any less crazy. She's also concerned that patients may be over-medicated.

Doug brushes her off as if she were a first-year med student and then leans closer to Berry's lovely mouth, as if — horrors! — he might kiss her.

While he pauses, our minds race. Is it possible that this creepy, middle-aged doughnut

and Berry, stunning even in drab Ann Taylor-style work clothes, are supposed to be romantically involved? Just as we have dismissed it, they do kiss and we're flabbergasted. Certainly Doug — who, it turns out, is Miranda's husband — will have to die a terrible, bloody death as penance: Such couplings are not allowed in movies.

What Miranda saw in Doug remains a mystery, as well as what she somehow didn't see in him. She spends the rest of the movie being thrown around by invisible evil beings, attempting wild escapes down the prison's black corridors and making the talent she displayed for hysteria in "Monster's Ball" seem like just the tip of the iceberg.

Everyone who used to love Miranda — from the local sheriff (John Carroll Lynch) to the formerly lovesick Peter (the mere sight of Downey inspires hope that the movie can be salvaged, but it is not to be) — no longer have one iota of sympathy for her. Her colleagues in the psych ward actually seem excited to get a chance to bring the good doctor down a peg; a nurse pushes Miranda into a nude group

shower with an expression of barely concealed glee.

The movie is directed by Mathieu Kassovitz (who also wrote and directed the acclaimed arthouse movie "La Haine," or "Hate"). What he displays here is an ability to give a decent visual fright and the unfortunate sense that his inspiration comes from those 1970s TV dramas where innocent women go to jail, always in the South, and are used as sexual playthings by the guards. Or by each other. There are so many gratuitous fantasies at play in "Gothika," it's hard to keep them all straight.

If we believed in the heroine, at least we'd have that to keep us going. But the often laughable script only gives Berry so much to work with.

When Miranda does start to unravel the mystery, it's all accidental; she's just a helpless babe wandering around in a tight T-shirt.

Hard to believe this is the actress who won an Oscar two years ago.

Reach reviewer Mary F. Pols at 925-945-4741 or mpols@cc-times.com.

Reviews

FROM PAGE C3

death will see this feature-length documentary as more reason to believe that "Pac lives. That's because, through the magic of clever editing of extensive MTV interviews, Shakur, who comes off as charismatic and contemplative, narrates the movie himself. The artist's criminal troubles are addressed, and he is portrayed as deeply flawed, if always aware of his own failings. Shakur's articulate arguments for his own importance are such that open-minded naysayers will have to grudgingly admit that the polarizing rapper and actor was a fascinating, talented figure. — D. DeLuca. (R: profanity, sex, violence.) 1 hour, 30 minutes B

"UNDER THE TUSCAN SUN": Generalizations are risky, but anyone wanting to know the answer to the eternal question "What do women want?" (or rather, women over 35) need look no farther than Audrey Wells' frothy adaptation of Frances Mayes' best seller. A woman (Diane Lane) gets dumped, desponds, goes sightseeing in Italy, buys a rundown villa in a small Tuscan hill town,

cooks fabulous meals for friends, takes a gorgeous lover and essentially assumes a whole new identity. This is how we should all be dumped. The really nice thing about the movie, aside from Lane's warm, vulnerable performance, is its focus on how we recover from lost love, rather than the pursuit of a fresh one. — M. Pols. (PG-13: sexual content, language.) 1 hour, 55 minutes. B+

"VERONICA GUERIN": This scaled-down, no-frills, straight-acting piece on the events leading up to the murder of a real-life Irish crusader/journalist stars Cate Blanchett in the title role. Guerin dared to uncover the dark truth about drug dealers in Dublin and paid dearly for it. Director Joel Schumacher makes the mistake of opening his film with Guerin's brutal murder and then flashing back to depict the incidents that preceded her death. Knowing how she died and just how much her husband and children are about to lose, it's tough to sit there and admire Guerin for her spunk and determination to stand up for what she believes. — J. Baltake. (R: violence, language and some drug content.) 1 hour, 38 minutes. C

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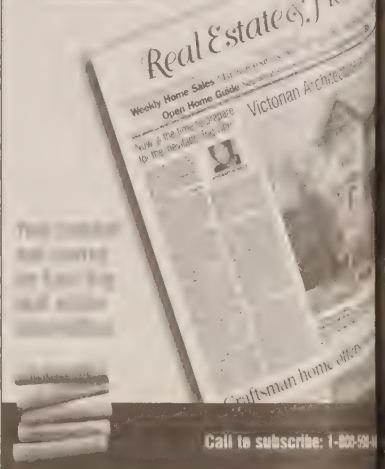
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Events

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PREMIER CULTURAL CENTER — "Laughing Matters," Nov. 22, 7 p.m. A comedy of the film plus live comedy by Susan Swift. \$8. 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568 or www.laughingmatters.org

THEATRE

THEATRE ENSEMBLE OF BERKELEY — "The Musical," closing Nov. 22. St. Germain, closing Nov. 22. Ford, Thomas Edison and Warburton are alone on a camping trip in 1921 in this play featuring humorous moments and suspense. 8 p.m. Live. 1301 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-643-5999 or www.aef.org

ALAMOSA PLAYHOUSE — "Jekyll and Hyde," closing Nov. 23. The Musical, closing Nov. 23. A brilliant doctor's experiment with human personality creates a murderous counterpart. 8 p.m. Live. 1408 High St., Alameda. 510-535-0353 or www.alamarena.org

THEATRE COMPANY — "The Hero" by Kenneth Lonergan, closing Dec. 21. When a murder is committed, a hapless security guard tries to do the right thing but can't figure out what that is. 8 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday. 2081 Addison Ave., Berkeley. 510-843-4822 or www.theatrecompany.org

REPERTORY THEATRE — "The Divided: Mothers Against Daughters of the Revolution" by Tompkins, closing Dec. 28. A two-act play examining both sides of a controversial campaign, with candid tales of mothers and daughters. 8 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday. 2081 Addison Ave., Berkeley. 510-843-4822 or www.repertorytheatre.org

THEATRE ENSEMBLE — "The Last Great Show on Earth," closing Dec. 28. A new look at one of the greatest kings of England, who led the Third Crusade against the Muslims of the Islamic world, Saladin. 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday. 2081 Addison Ave., Berkeley. 510-843-4822 or www.theatreensemble.org

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"Forever Plaid" by Stuart Ross and James Raitt, closing Nov. 29. On the night the Beatles first played in America, a freak auto accident kills the members of The Plaids. Twenty-six years later, the nerdy doo-wop group is given one night on earth to fulfill their dreams of what "could have been." A '50s-style music revue. \$20. Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. 951 Pomona Ave., El Cerrito. 510-524-9132

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GUYS 'R DOLLS — "Guys 'R Dolls Holiday Spectacular," Nov. 29 through Dec. 7. A magical romp of fabulous production numbers, gorgeous costumes and hilarious performances. \$20 to \$35. Nov. 29, 3 p.m. and 8 p.m.; Nov. 30 and Dec. 7, 3 p.m.; Dec. 6, 8 p.m. Glenview Performing Arts Center, 1318 Glenfield Ave., Oakland. 510-531-0511

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nently housed under a pizza restaurant, dinner and a show is available if you like pizza.

"Macbeth" by William Shakespeare, through Dec. 13. A fast-paced, bloody version of the tale of a Scottish nobleman's obsessive quest for power. \$15 general, \$10 students and seniors. Thursday through Saturday, 8 p.m. La Val's Subterranean, 1834 Euclid St., Berkeley. 510-464-4468 or www.immaculate.org

MASQUERS PLAYHOUSE — "1940s Radio Hour" by Walton Jones, through Dec. 13. A musical comedy featuring a "Cavalcade of Stars" rehearsing for a Christmas radio show in New York City in 1943. \$15. Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m.; Nov. 30 and Dec. 7, 2:30 p.m. 105 Park Place, Point Richmond. 510-232-4031 or www.masquers.org

MOMENT'S NOTICE — "Third Anniversary Gala," Nov. 22 and Nov. 23, 8 p.m. A series of improvisational performances by past favorites of the monthly show, including Cassie Terman and Katrina Eriksson. \$15 to \$20. Western Sky Studio, 2525 Eighth St., Berkeley. 510-915-3883

OKLAND BOX THEATRE — "The Oakland Poetry Slam," first and third

See EVENTS, Page C6

A Real Thanksgiving Feast

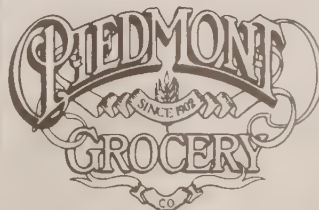


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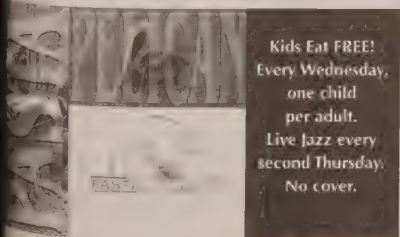
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AE	American Express	\$	Entrées under \$7
CB	Carte Blanche	\$	\$7-\$14
DC	Diners Club	\$	\$15-\$20
DS	Discover Card	\$	\$20+
MC	MasterCard		
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AC	All Cards accepted		
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Pasta Pelican

2455 Mariner Square Drive, Alameda (510) 864-7427
For the past four years, pasta Pelican Restaurant has been delighting its guests with a variety of unique dishes. Their extensive menu offers veal, steak, seafood, chicken classic pastas, salads, sandwiches and appetizers. Guests are raving about this waterfront restaurant for their famous fresh baked bread, fried calamari, homemade clam chowder, variety of salads, attentive, friendly service, and inviting atmosphere. All this for what is considered to be one of the best values in the Bay Area. Formerly The Rusty Pelican, the restaurant is located in Alameda, behind the Webster Tube with a spectacular view of Jack London Square and the Oakland Hills. You will truly enjoy this fine dining experience. Parking and docking are free. For reservations please call (510) 864-7427.

Pier 29 Waterfront Restaurant

300 - 29th Avenue, Oakland (510) 261-1621
Good food, friendly service, and comfortable atmosphere describe Pier 29 Waterfront Restaurant. For over 30 years the restaurant has been located adjacent to the Park Street Bridge overlooking the Alameda/Oakland estuary. The "Pier" offers an extensive menu featuring fresh seafood, Angus New York steak, prime rib, pasta, teriyaki ribs, daily specials, and much more. The theme in the kitchen is "good homestyle cooking." Brunch is served on weekends from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. and the popular earlybird menu is featured daily. Every table has a view of the water and there is plenty of free parking. The Pier is open 7 days a week, Mon. - Thurs. 11 a.m. - 10 p.m., Fri. 11 a.m. - 11 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m. - 11 p.m., Sun. 9 a.m. - 10 p.m.

Speisekammer

2424 Lincoln Ave., Alameda (510) 522-1300
Speisekammer presents Modern German Cuisine that is good for the body and soul. Sauerbraten, Wiener Schnitzel and a house recipe Bratwurst are standards. Light fare such as the Gemusestrudel (Vegetable Strudel with Goat Cheese, Roasted Red Pepper and Spinach. Served in a Carrot Sauce) give the menu a modern (or California) twist. There is a word in the German language that has no counterpart in English: Gemutlichkeit. It connotes a combination of comfort, friendship, and the general sentiment of being completely at ease with your surroundings. Speisekammer's atmosphere is Gemutlich. Large tables and a private room make it a great place for groups. The Beer is Strictly German. The Cocktails are Distinctly American, and the wine list has some of each. Lunch is served Tues-Fri - Grilled Pannini Sandwiches and Salads are offered along with some of the more popular entree items. Sunday Brunch is to die for! 10am-2pm. Dinner is served Tues-Sun. W-\$-\$\$\$, AC, FB, RR.

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See EVENTS, Page C9

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Investing in improving your property can lead to big-time savings on your bill. PG&E encourages all our customers to replace older, inefficient appliances with new ENERGY STAR labeled models. To make it easier, we are offering \$75 rebates on new purchases of energy-efficient clothes washers and dishwashers. If your furnace is 10 years old or older, you could qualify for a rebate of \$200 when you replace it. Also, updating your insulation (floor, ceiling and walls) and changing old windows to new, high-performance models can radically lower your heating costs. (Note: To receive a rebate on a specific purchase or improvement, you must be a PG&E customer. Act now, as funds are limited.)

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• Our Energy Calculator (pge.com/calculator) lets you calculate your energy costs during the actual billing cycle, so you have an accurate, current picture of your energy use.

• If you're in the market for a new, energy-efficient home, look for an ENERGY STAR participating developments, pge.com/newhomes.

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POETRY AT CODY'S — 7:30 p.m. at Telegraph Avenue
"Americas Review Reading," Nov. 23. A reading with poets Jabez Churchill, George Fleming, George Higgins, Christina Huggins, Diana O'Heir, David Shaddock, Susan Tervis, Julia Vinograd and Gillian Wegener.
2454 Telegraph Ave. 510-845-7852.
FOURTH STREET — Rosemary Wells, Nov. 22, 2 p.m. The author will sign copies of her three newest books: "Felix and the Worrier," "The Small World of Binky Braverman" and "Only You."
Jeffrey Moussaieff Masson, Nov. 22, 7 p.m. The author will talk about his book, "The Pig Who Sang to the Moon: The Emotional World of Farm Animals."
1730 Fourth St. 510-559-9500.
Free. Readings at 7:30 p.m., unless noted otherwise. Berkeley.
LA PENNA CULTURAL CENTER — "Hecho in Califas," through Nov. 21. The fourth annual festival celebrating "Raices en Resistencia."
Nov. 21, 9 p.m.: "Chicano Groove," with Hazel, Slowwider, Quinto Sol. \$10 to \$12.
"Bay Area Coalition for Headwaters 10th Birthday Celebration," Nov. 30, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. With refreshments, multimedia presentations and an auction. \$5. 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568 or www.lapenna.org.
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, PACIFIC FILM ARCHIVE — "Margaret Mead Film and Video Festival," through Nov. 21.
Nov. 21, 7:30 p.m.: "The Lost Reels of Pancho Villa," playing with "It's Not My Memory of It: Three Recollected Documents" and "The Mesmerist," "Standby, No Technical Difficulties,"

through Dec. 10. A showing of films from New York City's Standby Program.
"Alternative Visions," through Dec. 2. A showing of films by Bay Area film students.
Nov. 25, 7:30 p.m.: "Light-on-Light: Projection Performance" Filmmaker Luis Recoder will be in attendance.
"Yasujiro Ozu: Filmmaker for All Seasons," Nov. 23 through Dec. 21. A retrospective of the works of the Japanese director.
Nov. 23, 5:30 p.m.: "Days of Youth" with "A Straightforward Boy" and "I Graduated, But..."
Nov. 28, 3:30 p.m., 6:40 p.m. and 9:20 p.m.: "Tokyo Story."
Nov. 29, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.: "Late Spring."
Nov. 29, 4:10 p.m. and 9:10 p.m.: "An Autumn Afternoon."
Nov. 30, 2 p.m.: "Tokyo Story."
Nov. 30, 5:30 p.m.: "I Was Born, But With Judith Rosenberg on piano."
Nov. 30, 7:25 p.m.: "Where Now Are the Dreams of Youth?" With Judith Rosenberg on piano.
Single feature: \$8 adults; \$5 seniors, disabled persons, children 12 and under; \$2 additional features. 2575 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. 510-642-5249 or www.bampfa.berkeley.edu
UC BERKELEY LUNCH POEMS READING SERIES — First Thursday of the month, through May 2004. A series of monthly readings by poets including Robert Haas, Maxine Hong Kingston, Lyn Hejinian and Robert Thomas. Free. All readings are 12:10 p.m. to 12:50 p.m. Morrison Library in the Doe Library, UC Berkeley campus, Berkeley. 510-642-0137 or www.berkeley.edu/calendar/events/poems.
TILDEN PARK — "Christmas Fantasy in

the Woods," Nov. 28 through Dec. 23. The Tilden Merry-Go-Round celebrates the holidays with rides, seasonal crafts and gifts, sweets and lights. The Merry-Go-Round and the park grounds have been transformed with lights, decorations and trees. Santa will visit on Mondays and Tuesdays from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Free admission; \$1 merry-go-round rides. Daily, 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Take Canon Drive off Grizzly Peak Boulevard, Berkeley. 510-524-6773 or www.ebparks.org.
BERKELEY ARTISANS HOLIDAY OPEN STUDIOS — Nov. 29 through Dec. 21. One hundred professional artists and craftspeople will open their studio doors to the public on weekends for self-guided tours. A free map is available listing all studios.
Free. Saturday and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Berkeley. 510-845-2612 or www.berkeleyartisans.com.
18TH ANNUAL HOLIDAY KWANZAA AND CHRISTMAS GIFT SHOW — Nov. 28 through Nov. 30. Oakland's original African American Holiday Crafts Show features one-of-a-kind specialty items by local and statewide artists. In addition there will be live music, a spoken word contest for young people, and games for everyone. The organizers want to pass along that this is an event for everyone, not just African Americans.
\$5 general; free children under age 12. Friday, 1 p.m. to 8 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Oakland Marriott Convention Center, Broadway and 10th Street, Oakland. 510-534-1594 or www.kwanzaagiftshow.com.
JACK LONDON SQUARE — "The 12th Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony," Nov. 28, noon to 7 p.m. An all-day event

featuring the first annual high school choir competition. There will be pictures with Santa, a fun zone for children, ethnic food, arts and crafts, and a holiday tree lighting. The tree will be lit at 5:15 p.m. Free. Foot of Broadway, Oakland. 510-645-9283 or www.jacklondonssquare.com.
WORLD AIDS DAY — "Pills, Profits and Protest: Voices of Global AIDS Activists," Nov. 30, 3 p.m. A showing of the film, with live Zimbabwean music and a panel discussion by the filmmakers. \$8. Parkway Theater, 1834 Park Blvd., Oakland. 510-841-4339.
MUSEUMS
EBONY MUSEUM OF ARTS — Specializing in the art and history of Africa. The collection, which was on display in the museum's Jack London Village branch, has been incorporated with the material in the 14th Street Victorian Museum building, the site of the original museum. Free admission. \$2 guided tour. Monday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. 1034 14th St., Oakland. 510-783-0141.
JUDAH L. MAGNES MUSEUM — The museum's permanent collection includes objects of Jewish importance including ceremonial art, film and video, folk art and fine art, paintings, sculptures and prints by contemporary and historic artists. "Brought to Light: The Storied Collections of the Judah L. Magnes Museum," through April 25. Exhibit includes 130 objects drawn from the museum's archives library and collections. Works featured include a recovered Torah Ark from the Queen Mary ocean liner, documents from the Spanish Inquisition, a drawing by Albert Einstein and works

by Marc Chagall. Free. Sunday-Thursday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. 2911 Russell St., Berkeley. 510-549-6950 or www.magnes.org.
OAKLAND MUSEUM OF CALIFORNIA — "The Art of David Ireland: The Way Things Are," Nov. 22 through March 14, 2004. An exhibit of 80 works created by the West Coast artist between 1972 and 2002 including four large-scale installations, 30 sculptures and 47 two-dimensional pieces.
"Global Elegies: Art and Offerings for the Dead," through Dec. 7. An exhibit of artworks inspired by traditions and ceremonies honoring the dead in a variety of cultures. This is an expansion of the annual Day of the Dead exhibit, in its tenth year. The exhibit features 11 artists, from a variety of cultures, Western and non-Western, working in different media.
"The Art of Fred Martin: A Retrospective, 1948-2003," through Dec. 28. An exhibit of paintings on board paper and canvas that spans 50 years and includes 135 works.
"Online Museum," Thursdays, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Explore the museum's collection on videoskips in the History Department Library.
Art à la Carte — Art docents offer a variety of specialized tours focusing on one aspect of the museum's permanent collection. Wednesday, 12:30 p.m. Free with museum admission. \$8 general; \$5 seniors and students, free children age 5 and under, free to all on the second Sunday of the month. Wednesday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday, noon to 5 p.m., first Friday of the month, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. CLOSED NOV 26 AND NOV 27 1000 Oak St., Oakland. 510-238-2200 or www.museumca.org

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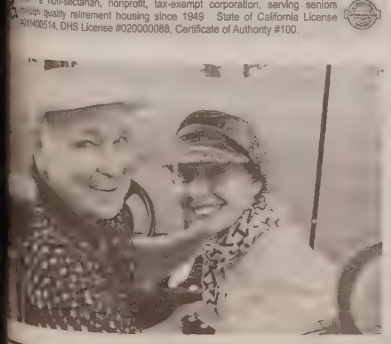
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The Vinci Code, Dan Brown, \$19.95. An exhilarating blend of intelligence, relentless adventure, and a cutting wit, the new ad-venture novel by best-selling author Dan Brown (first in a series, "Angels & Demons") is the punch of Robert Ludlum, with the lasting historical touch of Umberto Eco, and the nonstop suspense of Michael Crichton.

Five People You Meet in Heaven, Mitch Albom, \$19.95. From the author of the bestseller "Tuesdays in Morristown" comes a novel that explores the unexpected connections of life and the idea that there is more than a place — it's an

God Little, Diercye Plere, \$19.95. In a small town in Texas, the terrifying care of the dying is the family, and wearing only black trainers and underpants, the mysterious Jesus, in a town away 16 of his classmates turning the gun on him-

follow-up to his bestseller "Cryptonomicon," Stephenson brings to life a cast of unforgettable characters in a time of breathtaking genius and discovery, men and women whose exploits defined an age known as the Baroque.

8. Bleachers, John Grisham, \$19.95. High school all-American Neely Crenshaw was probably the best quarterback ever to play for the legendary Messina Spartans. Fifteen years have gone by since those glory days, and Neely has come home to Messina to bury Coach Eddie Rake, the man who molded the Spartans into an unbeatable football dynasty.

9. Elizabeth Costello, J.M. Coetzee \$21.95. Booker Prize winner Coetzee has crafted an unusual and deeply affecting tale of an Australian novelist whose life is revealed through a series of eight formal addresses.

10. Pleasure of My Company, Steve Martin, \$19.95. From the best-selling author of "Shopgirl" comes a tender novella of a troubled man who finds love and life in the most unexpected place.

Hardcover NonFiction

1. Dude, Where's My Country? Michael Moore, \$24.95. Fresh on the heels of his runaway best-seller, "Stupid White Men," Moore returns with a bold, hilarious act of sedition as he seeks to overthrow the "Thief in Chief" and effect the kind of grass-roots change that will shake the country.

2. Lies & the Lying Liars Who Tell Them, Al Franken \$24.95. Once again, the author of "Rush Limbaugh Is a Big Fat Idiot and Other Observations" trains his subversive wit directly on the contemporary political scene, leaving the powers-that-be in tatters and his audience in hysterics.

3. Bushwhacked, Molly Ivins & Lou Dubose \$24.95. With the unprecedented challenges to civil liberties presented by the war on terrorism, the failure of the Bush economic policy, and the largely unnoticed crumbling of the quality of American life, the time is ripe for Ivins' no-holds-barred look at the first years of the George W. Bush presidency.

4. The South Beach Diet, Arthur Agatston, M.D., \$24.95. Dr. Agatston has developed an all-science, deliciously heart-healthy program that promises immediate results, helping

dieters shed 10, 20, 30 pounds while radically changing their blood chemistry, reversing diabetes and lowering high cholesterol.

5. Under the Banner of Heaven, Jon Krakauer, \$26. At the core of his book is an appalling double murder committed by two Mormon Fundamentalist brothers, Ron and Dan Lafferty, who insist they received a revelation from God commanding them to kill their blameless victims.

6. A Royal Duty, Paul Burrell \$25.95. Long-awaited book by Paul Burrell, the man in whom the Princess of Wales confided on matters big and small. Burrell, one of the Queen's personal footmen, met Diana during one of her first visits to Balmoral Castle. And while it may have been fate that brought them together, they shared a strong bond that endured to the end of her life. Burrell became Diana's confidant, and his unique perspective casts new light on the Princess of Wales and the events that would shape her life and the lives of those around her.

7. The Creative Habit: Learn It and Use It for Life, Twyla Tharp, \$25. Tharp's time-tested techniques will help everybody reach their greatest creative potential, in a clear, easy-to-follow program that lifts the veil off the creative process and opens the door to the artist in everyone.

8. Lost Recipes, Marion Cunningham, \$22. Today's Fannie Farmer and the 2003 winner of the James Beard Lifetime Achievement Award dedicates her new cookbook to getting America back to the family table. Includes an accordion-fold envelope for holding one's personal recipes.

9. Sailing the Wine-Dark Sea, Thomas Cahill, \$27.50. In the fourth volume of the acclaimed Hinges of History series, the author of "How the Irish Saved Civilization" brings his characteristic wit and style to a fascinating tour of ancient Greece.

10. Hegemony or Survival, Noam Chomsky, \$22. The United States is in the process of staking out not just the globe but the heavens as a militarized sphere of influence. Chomsky investigates how it came to this moment, what kind of peril it presents, and why rulers are willing to jeopardize the future of the species.

— Northern California Independent Booksellers Association



KEN KESKY authored "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" and "Sometimes a Great Notion."

Kesey

FROM PAGE C12

Kesey addresses the issue in a radio interview excerpted in "Spit." He frankly opines that no American writer ever really improved over time, himself included. "How many no-hitters can you pitch in the major leagues? I don't think that I will ever equal 'Notion' ... I don't have the energy or capacity."

He was also harsh in his assessment of the counterculture he helped to spawn. "We were just floating ... and we couldn't steer the boat. When you're lost in superstition and dope, you're lost. A lot of people were."

Filmmaker Gus Van Zant, who in his early days as a struggling Portland filmmaker hung out with Kesey, vividly remembers the disappointment in the author's voice when watching footage of the infamous Furthur bus. Kesey's eyes welled up with tears and he said to Van Zant, "We lost the battle. We lost the

big game."

Fellow writers remember Kesey for other things. Writer and Grateful Dead lyricist John Perry Barlow thanks Kesey in "Eulogy for Ken" for "the lean clarity of your words." Basketball icon Bill Walton writes "Ken only knew life, happiness, joy and standing on the edge ... the heart and soul of everything he was involved in."

Also included in "Spit in the Ocean #7" are testimonials from Larry McMurtry, Hunter S. Thompson, and Tom Wolfe, whose own Electric Kool Aid Acid Test captured the hallucinogenic zeitgeist of Kesey's pranksters and their epic journey to the 1964 World's Fair.

Kesey's boundless energy was certainly tested during his six-month jail stint. He channeled it into his own writing. Modern technology has finally allowed his richly illustrated tome, "Kesey's Jail Journal," smuggled out in his friend Page's hollowed-out copy of Ashley's Book of Knots, to be fully appreciated. His pastiches of text and drawings, done

with Day-Glo pens smuggled in the opposite direction, are an insightful look at the harsh realities of prison life and American race relations, among other topics, always leavened by Kesey's sense of humor.

Those who lament Kesey's passing are missing the point, say his colleagues. The work and spirit of the man whose mortal coil was shed in 2001 are still there in abundance. Wavy Gravy sums up the collective feeling in "Haiku for Kesey": *They say Kesey's dead —/but never trust a Prankster/even under ground.*

Even more poignant is one of Kesey's mantras, from "Kesey's Words to the Wise": *The only real currency is the currency of the spirit.*

McClanahan, riding around the country with some other surviving Pranksters in a revived Furthur on this book tour, will surely revive a bit of that spirit on Saturday night.

Reach Berkeley freelance writer Brian Kluepfel at bkluepfel@hotmail.com.



PLAYERS plays the Cat in the Hat that opens today at area theaters.

Mass 'Cat in the Hat' falls flat

By Mary F. Pols
STAFF WRITER

It might be possible to make a big-screen version of Dr. Seuss' "The Cat in the Hat," a book that would do justice to the intelligence of the classic story. A great mind, like the level of Dr. Seuss, like Theodor S. Geisel, pulled it off. Director Andrew Adamson and producer Brian Koppelman

are not into theaters today with a corruption of the 1957 classic, painfully padded with needless humor, a multi-ethnic shrieks from child and the tired antics of Mike Myers, who characterizes the Cat as a cross between the pouting lion and Fat Bastard. The undignified that it features a cameo by party girl Cameron Diaz. I don't know how, but I wouldn't want to be mine having even a small part in this social

reminded me of the way you see of iconic characters, such as Michelangelo's David wearing a photo of Speedo bikini. Granted, the book of humor works for a while, but the rest of us who just let something be what it is not OK in our eyes. "The Cat in the Hat" is a disaster.

REVIEW

- **WHAT:** Dr. Seuss' "The Cat in the Hat"
- **STARRING:** Mike Myers, Alec Baldwin, Kelly Preston, Dakota Fanning
- **RATING:** PG (for mild crude humor and some double-entendres)
- **RUNNING TIME:** 1 hour, 22 minutes
- **WHERE:** Opens today at area theaters
- **GRADE:** D

despite being critically panned was a box-office bonanza.

What's really astonishing is the level of cynicism involved. Late in the game, the kids and the Cat are on a wild fantasy ride and the boy, Conrad (the pouty Spencer Breslin), shouts that it's just like a ride at ... and the Cat freezes the screen, holds up brochures for the Universal Studios tour and finishes the sentence with, "You mean like at Universal Studios?" The fact that the movie can wink at its own blatant commercialism doesn't make it forgivable; it actually makes it more distasteful.

Because the book was slim, just 61 pages, a lot has been added to stretch it to a length that justifies the \$9 charge for admission. Mom (Kelly Preston) is much more than a leg here, she's a single working mother with a boss (Sean Hayes) who is phobic about germs and messes. She also has a boyfriend, neighbor Larry Quinn (Alec Bald-

win), who is not quite what he seems. He wants to send Conrad to military school (and watching Breslin stomp around the house, it doesn't seem like a bad idea). Snooty Sally (the scarily poised Dakota Fanning from "I Am Sam"), depicted as a control freak, likes Larry, but Conrad smells a rat. Baldwin gives the movie's best performance; he's a suitable sleazebag. Unlike Myers, who shouldn't be sleazy, but is.

At one point, the Cat picks up a photo of Mom, remarks on her beauty and his tail rises up to a full salute. One supposes this is for the benefit of parents, but it seems unlikely that many moms and dads are going to feel grateful for the inclusion of an erection joke in the big-screen version of "The Cat in the Hat."

It's humor such as this that earned the movie its PG rating, detailed as being for "mild crude humor and some double-entendres." Let's remember what PG means to the people who run the MPAA's rating system: "Some material may not be suitable for children."

In what universe is it OK to make a movie version of a classic children's book that is not suitable for the very demographic the author was aiming for? Published in 1957, "The Cat in the Hat" was intended to be educational, to introduce 220 new vocabulary words to youngsters in an entertaining fashion. Which it did, beautifully, and continues to do with each new generation. Let's hope this insult of a movie doesn't taint any child's ability to enjoy the original.

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Arts & Leisure

Friday, November 21, 2003



BILL MANN
Multimedia Notes

Rarely seen ugliness in JFK killing revisited

ALL WEEK LONG, our television screens have been filled with specials (on the History Channel, PBS, ABC, etc.) during the run-up to Saturday's 40th anniversary of JFK's murder. The network newscasts all weekend will air stories about that dark day in American history.

One show this week was especially noteworthy to me because of its candor and confessional tone: the Jane Pauley-narrated "JFK: Breaking the News" which ran on KQED Channel 9 Wednesday. The documentary was produced by the PBS affiliate in Dallas.

It was the first time I'd seen the hatred of the late president in Dallas and Texas before his assassination so openly admitted on a national broadcast. That morning, the Dallas Morning News (whose publisher despised John Kennedy) ran an anti-JFK editorial. A full-page ad also attacked JFK.

I lived in a suburb north of Dallas in November 1963. My father, an Army officer, was stationed on a nearby military base. When the horrible news of the shooting hit my high school, more than a few students cheered. Yes, cheered.

I've been telling people about this for years, and they almost always react with disbelief. It's often the exact opposite of what happened in their own schools. (And in all fairness, a few of my classmates sobbed, too).

A few years ago, I mentioned this ugliness in my high school to Amy McCombs, then the general manager of KRON-TV. I knew she was also a military brat and that her father, a general, was commander of an Air Force base in Oklahoma. She also went to a high school off the base.

"The same thing happened at my school," she sighed.

With Wednesday's special, Dallas's dirty little secret about JFK is out and we can move on. It's just too bad it took so long to reach national TV.

Wednesday's KQED special covered another noteworthy aspect of the Dallas shootings: How it changed us from a print-news society into an electronic one. Among those interviewed by KERA was Bob Schieffer, then a young Dallas-area newspaper reporter and now host of CBS's "Face the Nation."

Because of the unprecedented live coverage 40 years ago as Americans huddled around their TV sets, Schieffer notes, "TV became the nation's dominant medium that day." Until the events in Dallas, narrator Pauley noted, people didn't really believe something historic had happened until they read it in the paper.

Pauley said in an interview last month promoting the Dallas show, "I was only 13, and it was a harsh way to wake up to the world at large. I began to understand that day why my parents subscribed to three newspapers." Pauley added: "The antidote to fear and anxiety in uncertain times is information."

And that's a big reason why many of us have anxiety in these uncertain times about the fewer and fewer powerful people who now control TV news.

MEDIA NOTES: Readers have asked what happened to cheery KTVU morning news co-anchor Pam Cook.

Answer: She took maternity leave, and gave birth to her second daughter the other day.

FREE-FLUG DEPT. and notice to fellow Savoyards: Yours truly will be, as they say in the theater, "carrying a spear" (singing in the chorus) of Gilbert & Sullivan's masterwork, comic opera "The Mikado," which opens tonight (Nov. 21) up at Santa Rosa's Luther Burbank Center and runs the next three weekends. (Ticket info: 707-523-4185). It's directed by Ann Pool McNab, who co-founded San Francisco's world-class G&S troupe, The Lamplighters, 50 years ago. As the Mikado puts it: "Nothing could possibly be more satisfactory!"

Kesey's last prank

■ Cohorts celebrate joint release of two books by author and counterculture icon who died in 2001

By Brian Kluepfel
CORRESPONDENT

Most people remember, more or less, where they spent the Summer of Love. Ken Kesey always had a more precise memory — he was locked up in San Mateo County Jail on a pot bust.

Two books released together this month by Penguin USA celebrate Kesey's writing life: the first publication of "Kesey's Jail Journal," which he resuscitated in the years prior to his 2001 death, and "Spit in the Ocean #7: All About Kesey," the completion of a literary journal cycle the author began in 1973.

Both books involved Ed McClanahan, a noted author and long-time Kesey co-conspirator since their days in Wallace Stegner's writing program at Stanford in the early 1960s.

Both books impress upon the reader that despite Kesey's iconic status as the counterculture psychedelic warrior, the Oregonian was first, foremost, and to the end a dedicated writer, who continually probed at literature's place in society and at his own standing.

McClanahan recalls that one of Kesey's favorite phrases, "sparks fly upward," had a deep literary source: the Book of Job. The writer had great respect for those who had gone before, and lamented their neglect by the modern generation. "High-school kids are not getting Faulkner, they're not getting Hemingway, they're not getting Melville; they're getting me," wrote Kesey. "I'm not a classic; I'm not a wart on a classic's butt yet."

Many questioned whether Kesey had used all his talent in his two groundbreaking (perhaps now classic) works, 1962's "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" and 1964's "Sometimes a Great Notion." McClanahan laments in "Spit in the Ocean": "I had been one of the many who waited impatiently for a new novel ... as if he owed us, when in truth, we all owed him."

See KESEY, Page C11

IF YOU GO

WHAT: Ed McClanahan reminisces on Ken Kesey and "Kesey's Jail Journal," and "Spit in the Ocean #7: All About Kesey"

WHERE: Cody's Books, 2454 Telegraph Ave.

WHEN: Saturday, Nov. 22, at 7:30 p.m.

ADMISSION: Free

INFORMATION: www.codys-books.com; 510-845-7852

COMING UP

Celebrate holidays Scandinavian style

ALBANY — Medieval and Renaissance music for the holidays, and traditional Yule songs from Norway and Sweden for voices and instruments, will be performed by the group Falsobordone at 8 p.m. today in the Parish Hall of St. Alban's Church, 1501 Washington St.

Falsobordone is one of Sweden's leading medieval music ensembles, making their Bay Area debut.

Admission at the door is \$15 general, \$12 students and seniors. Information: 510-486-2803 or www.falsobordone.com.

Arts fest, auction includes kids' fun

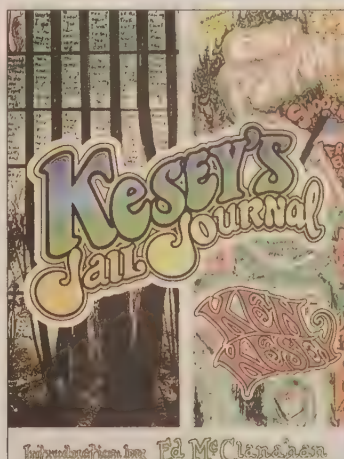
RICHMOND — The Richmond Art Center's annual free holiday arts festival and silent auction will be held from noon to 5 p.m. Dec. 7.

The festival includes children's activities and a sale of arts and crafts.

The auction will feature more than 300 works of art by Bay Area artists. Works include paint-



KEN KESEY, author of "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" and "Sometimes a Great Notion," addresses the crowd gathered at the Fillmore in 1997 to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Summer of Love.



"KESEY'S JAIL JOURNAL" and "Spit in the Ocean #7 All About Kesey" are being released together this month by Penguin USA.



ings, drawings, sculpture, photographs, prints and jewelry.

There will be a cafe where guests can buy a meal or beverages and sit and relax.

Everyone may visit the center from noon to 4:30 p.m. Nov. 26, 28 and 29 and Dec. 3 and 5 to preview and place early bids on art to be auctioned Dec. 7.

All proceeds benefit the Richmond Art Center, a nonprofit community arts organization recognized for its exhibitions, and education and outreach programs.

The center, at 2540 Barrett Ave., is wheelchair accessible. Admission is free. Call 510-620-6772 or visit www.therichmondartcenter.org.

'Eye music' showing until Dec. 10

BERKELEY — A new exhibition of paintings called "Music to Your Eyes" will be on display at the Addison Street Windows Gallery in the downtown arts district until Dec. 10.

The display features abstract and representational oil paintings by Dean Hunsaker that were inspired by classical music. The

"Heroic Series" is the leading piece. It embodies a series of intense cadmium-red textured backgrounds over which fragments of scores from Beethoven's music are drawn. In addition to the Heroic Series, the display includes various studies of the violin form, a nod to its acoustical perfection as a musical instrument.

Originally from New York, Hunsaker moved to California to begin graduate study in sociology at the University of California. After receiving a master's and completing Ph.D. coursework, he left the university and began a career in the visual arts.

The Addison Street Windows Gallery is a project of Berkeley's Civic Arts Program in cooperation with the Civic Arts Commission and is available for viewing throughout the week, 24 hours a day.

Stars come out to aid music programs

ALBANY — Latin jazz star Pete Escovedo and sons Peter Michael and Juan, Claudia Vilela and Ricardo Peixoto will perform Saturday at Albany High School to benefit music programs

in Albany schools.

The Escovedos will headline a benefit concert for the Albany Music Fund, which is dedicated to preserving music education in the Albany Unified School District.

Escovedo has been at the forefront of Latin jazz for three decades. In the late '60s, he toured with the percussion section of the Santana Band, and is featured on three of their albums. He has collaborated with Herbie Hancock, Cal Tjader, Anita Baker, Angela Bofill, Bobby McFerrin and Boz Scaggs, among others.

Escovedo's sons Juan and Peter Michael have followed the family tradition of percussion. Juan has played with artists such as Prince, while Peter Michael is music director of "The Wayne Brady Show."

The concert will be held Saturday, Nov. 22, at 7:30 p.m. in the Albany High School gym, 603 Key Route Blvd. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$30 for main-floor seating, \$20 for adults and \$10 for students and 18 and younger (ask about the reserved seating front and center). All proceeds will go directly to the Albany Music Fund.

For information, call 510-559-8282 or visit www.albanymusic.org. — Deborah Byrd

'Divide' shows different side of 1960s pop

"CONTINENTAL Divide" weaves together a tapestry of images depicting both the real and imaginary West on stage at Berkeley's Theatre II. It opens this year in Ashland as a Shakespeare production with a modern twist.

This astute and witty work, although named after a focus and a theatrical and not reportage, is compared — at least on the surface, by political pundit old enough to remember 1960s — to Theodore White's "The Making of a President," and subtle journalistic insider peek into the political process.

Tactics and strategies, crests and threats, minutiae of TV games eerily familiar to the reported four decades, while examining the of that era.

"Mothers Against the Republican view" and "The Revolution" are the two plays make up the cycle. The linking title of "Continental Divide." A sterling cast from the Oregon show, rest chosen locally, directed with telling and by the Rep's artistic director Tony Taccone.

"Mothers" is the more polished of the which will play in rep through Dec. 28. It is the comfortable urban country place that has on giant redwoods.

"Daughters" opens an outdoor setting with a of environmentalists for a birthday party. The hippie. The mood is exuberant and young compared to the commitment of "Mothers" subtle distinction play may note.

There is a sweep of grandeur to the title promises more than a liver. To most Americans, "Continental Divide" the Rocky Mountain range invokes a spirit of permanence. However, war in Iraq has a national verse and fluid as it can come together again as we always will.

Plays Tuesday through Dec. 28. Berkeley's Roda Theatre, Addison St., Berkeley. 510-647-2949 or 888-BRTIX. Other tickets and online tickets available at www.berkeleyrep.org.

SHAW ON UC CAMPUS If you haven't caught "Getting Married," at Barbara Oliver, at UC Berkeley's Durham Studio on campus, three performances remain: Saturday at 8, Sunday at 2 p.m.

Tickets are \$14 for faculty/students and \$10 for others. Groups of 10 or more. Call 866-658-0000 or purchase at the office opens one hour before showtime.

'FOREVER' ISN'T EVER: Despite the ingenuity of the "Plaid" begins the weekends of its Pomona Civic Theatre. Pomona Ave., La. tonight. Plays again time Saturday and Sunday at 2 p.m. Sunday performances Nov. 23. Call 510-524-9122.

Send theater items to Jack Tucker c/o the County Times, 4801 Drive, Richmond, B.C. mail to jktucker@comcast.net or fax to 510-262-2776. 262-2768. Include a name and number.

Friday Auto Plus

cars.com

Supplement to The Montclairian, The Piedmonter, The Berkeley Voice, The Journal, The Alameda Journal

Friday, November 21, 2003

Section D

Checklist for holiday driving with kids

Penn. — The Thanksgiving weekend remains the busiest time of the year.

According to the American Automobile Association, more than 30 million Americans relied on their autos to travel to their Thanksgiving last year.

Each week, the highways will be crowded with families heading to their "Turkey Day" feasts.

Motor vehicle crashes remain the leading cause of death for children under the age of 14, this is a dangerous time for young passengers.

Unrestrained is the single most important factor for death and injury in a child motor vehicle crash, approximately one in four children ages 4 and younger are completely unrestrained.

Moreover, according to a study conducted by the Partners for Child Passenger Safety, the children at greatest risk are those between ages 4 and 7 who should be using a belt-positioning booster seat. They are being inappropriately placed in an adult seat belt.

Single most important thing parents can do to keep their child safe while traveling by car is to make sure the child is properly seated, said Carol Helminski, a Highway Traffic Safety Administration certified installation technician and child safety coordinator for Chicco Children's Products.

Take a few extra moments to make sure your child is securely fastened in an appropriate car or

SAFETY, Page D2



MOTOR MATTERS

CADILLAC CTS is gaining notice as a luxury performance car in its restyled 2004 version which has retuned suspension for a smoother ride.

2004 Cadillac CTS sports sedan offers all-new V6 engine

MOTOR MATTERS

Looking different is what it's all about at Cadillac these days.

The geometrical blocks that form the edgy, angular shapes of the CTS are a brazenly courageous move by the automaker to distinguish its mid-size sports sedan from the swift-moving, soft lines of European and Japanese luxury cars.

Blazing new territorial ground in styling is a design theme Cadillac is sticking with along its entire lineup, which features the all-new models XLR roadster and SRX sport utility vehicle.

Restyling its look was an absolute must for Cadillac. I, for one, would never have considered a Cadillac when shopping for a luxury performance car; it held no image of vitality and was not in the same league as BMW or Mercedes.

Now, however, I hear people bringing up the name CTS, especially men.

For 2004, the CTS has a retuned suspension for a smoother ride, without sacrificing performance. The retuning includes new shocks and shock mounts.

Minor interior refinements focus

CONNIE KEANE

Keane on Wheels

on pulling together the luxury look, such as chrome accenting on the ashtray and bright white lighting on the instrumentation cluster.

The big news for the 2004 CTS is the availability of an all-new 24-valve, dual overhead cam, 3.6-liter V6 engine with Variable Valve Timing mated to an electronically controlled five-speed automatic trans-

mission.

This V6 engine develops 255 horsepower at 6,200 rpm and 252 pounds-feet of torque at 3,200 rpm.

The automatic transmission features engine braking through all five gears, which, according to the automaker, allows the driver to get a sporty feel from the CTS as if downshifting in a manual.

Shift buttons on the transmission let the driver select among "sport," "winter" and "economy" operation.

The CTS has a starting price of \$30,140 that comes with the 3.2-

liter V6 engine with the five-speed Getrag manual transmission. This powerplant generates 220 horsepower and 220 pounds-feet of torque.

Interestingly, both the 3.2-liter and 3.6-liter produce the same fuel economy ratings: 18 miles per gallon city and 28 mpg highway. It is the use of Variable Valve Timing technology in the 3.6-liter V6 engine on both the intake and exhaust valves that allows the engine to achieve good fuel economy and

See KEANE, Page D2

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EXC. add government fees and taxes, any finance charges, any dealer document preparation charge, and any emission testing charge. All vehicles subject to prior sale. Ad expires 7 days from date of issue.

EVERYTHING out of the engine has been replaced or repaired on this 1958 Buick, which was purchased by a collector in the Bay Area.



Undesirable 1958 Buick becomes a 'love affair'

VERN PARKER
Classic Classics

It was a dark and stormy night in 1988 when Earl Welch and his wife, Betty, left a restaurant in Merced, Calif., across the street, in a lot popular for displaying private party cars. It was a chrome-laden 1958 Buick Wildcat that caught their eye. "I was intrigued by it but not very desirable at the time," he says. "We went on home, and I got the car out of my garage. It was a 100 percent complete," he says. "Not even one screw was missing. The entire vehicle was stock in very nice condition."

The two men met and Welch took it for a brief test-drive. The 364-cubic-inch V8 roared to life, really roared, because the mufflers, resonators and tailpipes were shot. Still, it appeared that it was producing 300 horsepower even after the 70,140 miles recorded on the odometer.

A deal was struck and Welch took his prize to his home across town. The 1958 model Buicks were the last ones to carry the Roadmaster, Century and Special labels.

"It still had clear plastic seat covers," he says in amazement. "The bronze/gold color was new that year," Welch adds.

Welch replaced the shock absorbers, 12-volt battery, hoses, belts, a seal kit in the drive line, and wide

whitewall tires. The steel-belted radials make a world of difference, he says. "Now it floats down the road smooth as silk." The original 7.60x15-inch spare tire is in the trunk along with the original (never used) jack.

The sun-baked dash top was wrinkled so Welch replaced that and recovered the front door armrests. Over the 15 years, Welch has owned the Buick he has had three of the many pieces of chrome replaced.

"No work at all has ever been done on the engine and, as well as I have been able to determine, the carburetor has never been touched or rebuilt — only the screws tightened," he says.

When a new exhaust system was installed, Welch opted for originality except for the mufflers which are Glas-paks. "I wanted to hear a rumble out of that big V8," he declares.

With the enormous Buick in superior mechanical condition, Welch occasionally took it to work when it was his turn to drive in his car pool until he retired from Farmer's Insurance Co. in Merced in 1993.

The old Buick came equipped with an automatic transmission, power

steering and power brakes, AM radio, tinted glass and lights in the glove box and in the trunk. Besides the windshield washers and clock it has a speed minder which sounds an alarm buzzer when the predetermined speed is exceeded.

One item not on the Buick that Welch missed when he bought the car was an exterior mirror on the right side.

"After years of searching I found one at a Turlock swap meet," he says. The seller didn't know what it went to, Welch recalls, so he took the \$15 I offered him. He didn't know I would have given him \$50.

"It will cruise all day at 70/75 mph with no effort at all. It doesn't use oil but does use gas. Mileage of 8 to 9 gallons in town and 12 to 13 gallons on the road is common," Welch reports. Regardless, Welch says, "I just love the car."

For your car to become a Classic Classics, send a color photo (frontal 3/4 view) plus brief details and phone number to: Vern Parker, 2221 Abbotford Drive, Vienna, VA 22181. Only good quality photos will be acceptable.

The ultimate Volkswagen: Sophisticated 2004 Phaeton

After World War II, when Volkswagen began exporting Beetles to the U.S., the main attraction of the economy. The Beetle was half the price of any domestic cars.

Buyers could soon be paying \$75,000 for a car that is a far cry from the funny VW Beetle.

Now VW cars have been getting more sophisticated and expensive over the years, nobody prepared for a VW that may approach \$100,000.

The 2004 Phaeton is the ultimate VW and has everything and price to match. It was the brainchild of Ferdinand Piech, the driven former Volkswagen CEO.

Piech conceived the idea of marketing a flagship vehicle for the VW brand that would catapult the company into a new breed of VW, one that squared his engineers to push the envelope of technology and luxury. The engineers have created the Phaeton, the most powerful VW ever, built with state-of-the-art technology.

With a choice of a V8 or a W12 engine in the most compact 12-cylinder engine in the world, the W12 has the same basic engine Bentley uses.

The W12 does not generate the power of a V8 engine, though the block and cylinder are the same. The Phaeton engine is also more sophisticated.

The system is different as are its cooling, intake and exhaust systems.

Despite this, the W12 can rocket the 5,399-pound Phaeton from 0-to-60 mph in 5.9 seconds and eventually reach a top speed that can exceed 150 mph.

The V8 accelerates from 0-to-60 mph in 6.7 seconds. Its top speed is a mere 130 mph.

The 4.2-liter V8 is identical to the one used in the Audi A8. Next year, the Phaeton will also offer a V10 diesel that's the most powerful for passenger vehicles in the world.

"You would have to buy a yacht to get a more powerful diesel engine," says Wilfried Bockelmann, a member of VW's management board. However, the diesel will not be available in the U.S.

Like Siamese twins, the W12 is made of two compact V6 15-degree V modules similar to the engines used in the Jetta. They are laid out in a 72-degree angle that forms a double-V, providing its W architecture. The engine requires an amazing three gallons of oil (with filter).

Phaeton also has VW's 4Motion AWD system that comes with a Torsen center differential capable of altering the 50/50 power distribution to front and rear axles.

When it senses slippage, the differential can transfer more power to the axle with traction with a maximum range of 67/33 to all four wheels. This transference constantly provides optimum traction and lateral steering force.

A four-corner adjustable air suspension system with continuous damping control and auto leveling soaks up bumps. Its effectiveness is really noticeable when driving over cobblestone streets in German towns. It was also comfortable on rough roads.

The suspension electronically regulates shock absorbers with wheel acceleration sensors that monitor road conditions as you're driving.

You can select from two adjustable heights and four shock absorber settings. The suspension is adjustable at speeds of up to 74 mph. At speeds exceeding 75 mph, the manually adjusted ground clearance returns to a normal 5 inches from a maximum of 6 inches.

All the high-tech engineering is complemented with a super luxury interior. The car comes with 18-way power front seats that are not only heated and ventilated, but also have a 10-minute massage feature. Rear seats are also heated.

The Phaeton also is equipped with state-of-the-art safety systems. It comes with eight airbags, emergency brake assist, electronic park assist and electronic stability control. Also included is a tire pressure monitoring system for the run-flat tires.

The car is assembled in Dresden, Germany, the most modern car plant in the world. VW calls it a transparent factory because of its glass walls. The factory interior has polished wood floors and there is no sign of grease or dirt on them.

HERB SHULDINER
Down the Road

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The entire Phaeton comes to the plant in parts and components. No stamping or painting takes place within the transparent facility.

All the parts are mostly assembled by hand, although the workers are assisted by three robots and automated overhead conveyor systems that carry the car bodies to the stations where they are attached to the chassis.

The manufacturing process, fittingly, is as revolutionary as the car is for Volkswagen.

Edward B., San Jose
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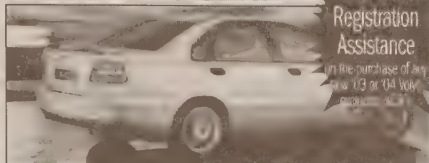
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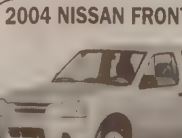
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PRICES PLUS GOVERNMENT FEES AND TAXES. ANY FINANCE CHARGES, ANY DEALER DOCUMENT PREPARATION CHARGE, AND ANY FINISHING TESTING CHARGE. FINANCING SUBJECT TO CREDIT APPROVAL. OFFER EXPIRES 24 HOURS AFTER PUBLICATION.

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24-hour fax: 925-943-8359. For legal notices or obituary notices, call 748-1666; Monday to Friday, 8:30am-5pm

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\$3275* 3 Lines, 3 Weeks
Merchandise & Transportation
• All HILLS papers
• Ads on Internet (www.contracostimes.com)
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Merchandise & Transportation
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GARAGE SALE

\$1640* 8 Lines, Friday Only
• All HILLS
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FREE ADS

• Found items
• Free items
• 3 Lines, 1 Week

Classified Dept.

Ad Starting:
• Open Home Guide
• Friday
• All private party ads are prepaid. Checks and major credit cards accepted.
• *For copy deadline

Quickly locate the category you need with this handy Classified guide

ANNOUNCEMENTS	PERSONAL SERVICES	EMPLOYMENT	PETS & SERVICES	MERCHANDISE	FINANCIAL	HOME IMPROVEMENT	RENTALS	REAL ESTATE	TRAVEL
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ContraCostaTimes.com

Find your ad on the net! CLICK ON <http://www.cctimes.com>

Want to email your ad? Go to: ContraCostaTimes.com select "Classified" and click on

Real Estate & Home

Real Estate



Real Estate Information & Announcements

All property advertised in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Housing Act of 1968, as amended, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation, or discrimination based on race, color, religion, gender, handicap, marital status or national origin, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination. This newspaper will not knowingly accept advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis.

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

FREE LIST: Gov't. Reps

from \$2K down, all areas. Bk. 925-398-7210, 24 hrs.

HANDYMAN SPECIAL

• HOUSES WANTED • Behind in payments? Ok. Cash in 4 days 925-933-2212.

LOAN/Real Estate/Broker

Add \$8 to your business. www.usmr.net/areyes

WE'LL BUY YOUR HOUSE

WE'LL PAY CASH. WE'LL PAY CASH. (925) 933-6575

WE PAY CASH FOR YOUR HOUSE

IF YOU'RE IN A COND. 1-509-8881

Real Estate

Loan Notice

It is illegal for companies doing business by phone to promise you a loan and ask you to pay for it before they deliver. This is a public service announcement of the Federal Trade Commission and Contra Costa Newspapers/Hills News.

DOWN

Credit problems OK. Owner/Non Owner. Previous Bankruptcy OK. Commercial/Residential. 4000 sq. ft. Home. 1-800-306-1001. Lic. by Dept. of Corporations

APPROVED BY PHONE

!! REFINANCE NOW !! • BK/Bad Credit OK • No Income Verification • Get Cash Now. 1-800-306-1001. Lone Oak Prop & Financial. E. Brk. DRE#1249513

BAYVIEW MORTGAGE

Free Credit Repair for Homeowners. Call Al (877) 581-8055. Lic. by Dept. of Corporations. CA Dept. of Corp.

BUYERS: ZERO DOWN

Self-Emp. Stable Income. No Up Front Fees. Easy Loan Pre-Qual. Res. Income. Cont'd. Loan. Loans to \$3.5M Available. 925-398-7210. DRE#1040313

NO DOWN - LOW DOWN

Good credit - Bad credit. No down. 24 hr. loan for you. 925-673-0400. DRE#1040313

Investment

Property

APARTMENTS: Specialize in Apt. financing. Call. Catharine 925-897-0760. 925-897-0760

FAIRFIELD-16 UNITS

City Property, Great Shape. 12/30/2000. Apt. Call 510-810-6213

Investment

Property

FREE LIST: Gov't. Reps. from \$2K down, all areas. Bk. 925-398-7210, 24 hrs.

PLEASANT HILL

3 & 6 units. New construction. Near DVC. 925-925-0000. \$1,750,000. 925-683-6416

Real Estate

Wanted

OFFICE BLDG/COMM'L. 4000 sq. ft. Home. 1-800-306-1001. Lic. by Dept. of Corporations

WANTED: ALAMO LOT

I have 5 different buyers. If you are thinking of selling in the next 6 months, NOW is the time! Call Eddie 925-877-5146

WE BUY HOMES IN ANY CONDITION

Any Location. 925-347-2914. Mike Wendell Agent. 925-746-9496

WE BUY HOMES CASH

Fast Closings. 925-887-7777. 7 day closing. 925-887-7777

WE BUY HOMES

Foreclosure/Save your home. Any house. 800-311-3430

Property Outside of Bay Area

3 ACRES ABOVE LAKE ORVILLE. 5400 Owner/Res. 925-398-7210

REDWOOD AREA 920/2BA

In gated community. Approx. 2000 sq. ft. 925-272-4146. 925-272-4146

SPECTACULAR 5000 sq. ft.

home on 17th fairway. 925-398-7210. 925-398-7210

VALLEY Springs new hms.

12.5 acres. 925-398-7210. 925-398-7210

APARTMENTS: Specialize

in Apt. financing. Call. Catharine 925-897-0760. 925-897-0760

FAIRFIELD-16 UNITS

City Property, Great Shape. 12/30/2000. Apt. Call 510-810-6213

Coastal & Vacation Property

LA PAZ BAJA Custom hms. 55. View, water, electric. fishing, boating, etc. 925-398-7210, 24 hrs.

Lots & Land Residential

BY OWNER - 2 acre lots at the most sought after Northgate foothill w/ multi-unit potential. 925-398-7210, 24 hrs.

LIVERMORE: Vineyard

160 acres in prestigious Crane Ridge Estates. Apt. 925-398-7210, 24 hrs.

Duplexes for Sale

LIVERMORE two 3BD/2BA homes, on 1 lot. 925-398-7210, 24 hrs.

MARTINEZ: 4 Unit \$459K

Richmond & Unit \$50K. 925-398-7210, 24 hrs.

Condos & Townhouses for Sale

Condo 2BD/1BA. 1511 Schenck Ct. #5. 925-398-7210, 24 hrs.

DANVILLE 3BD/2BA

Open 11/16, 11-4pm. 925-398-7210, 24 hrs.

DANVILLE Investor!

3BD/2BA. 1161 St. #459K. 925-398-7210, 24 hrs.

MORAGA 19 Miramonte Dr.

925-398-7210, 24 hrs.

PINOLE-Affordable Homes

For Sale, 2 BD condos. 925-398-7210, 24 hrs.

PLEASANT HILL: Open Sun

1.4, 840 camelback Pt. 925-398-7210, 24 hrs.

180/1BA, all new

\$24,500. 925-398-7210, 24 hrs.

CONCORD 2BD/1BA

925-398-7210, 24 hrs.

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CONCORD 2BD/1BA

925-398-7210, 24 hrs.

Condos & Townhouses for Sale

WALNUT CREEK 3BD/3BA. 925-398-7210, 24 hrs.

WALNUT CREEK 3BD/2BA

925-398-7210, 24 hrs.

Manufactured-Mobile Homes for Sale

\$ SUPER VALUE \$

BRENTWOOD

OPEN Sunday 12-4. 925-398-7210, 24 hrs.

Concord

3168 BONIFACIO SL. 4-5 bd. 925-398-7210, 24 hrs.

3BD/2BA, 4060 Lillian Dr.

925-398-7210, 24 hrs.

3BD/2BA updated kit.

925-398-7210, 24 hrs.

BEAUTIFUL LARGE LOT

925-398-7210, 24 hrs.

3BD/2BA, Ranch style

925-398-7210, 24 hrs.

3BD/2BA, 4060 Lillian Dr.

925-398-7210, 24 hrs.

3BD/2BA, 4060 Lillian Dr.

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3BD/2BA, 4060 Lillian Dr.

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ASPHALT
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Bobcat Sew 5 Dnt
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Bobcat 6-10
Trench post
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tile/Floors/Patio
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and insured
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925-372-0272

The best and target classified section in the greater East Bay Area

Announcements

Business notices, personal messages, lost & found

Announcements

"Woman's Therapy Group" helping people "find themselves"

Found

Cat - Fem, long hair, white collar, markings face/tail. Pink collar. 925-582-822.

Cat-Large black male, short fur, Canterbury Dr. Richmond. 925-665-6566.

COCKATIE Pearl yellow & grey, tame, Richmond area. 11/13 510-758-8155

DOG - San Ramon/Danville. 6-yr-old, black & tan, collie mix. 925-634-1695.

FOUND PITBULL - 510-248-6252

LABRADOR, yellow, male, 11/18 Brentwood. 925-516-0888/925-788-5130

POODLE/Terrier mix, 2 males, w/ht. found 11/15. Richmond. 510-724-1036

SET of W/keys at Navellier & Pigeon St. In El Cerrito. Call 925-234-8204

SHITZU Mini mixed color brown, male, Lombard Ave. 11/14, 925-960-9629

TURTLE: 6-yr old, Sauter, white, in Danville. 11/16 925-979-9474

LOST - Australian, light, tan, purple collar, lost Concord 11/11. Soayed Fern. FOUND!

BEAGLE 10yr Fem, brown & white, in Danville. 10/25, 925-708-1068

CAT: All white male, lost at Lafayette Reservoir. 925-258-7789, 925-674-9694

CAT: Jupiter, male, neutered, 4 yrs old, soft grey, w/cream collar, found blended stripes on under-side wearing blue break-away collar, squirrel, mouse, missing since 11/9. Lost near 1,000 block of Pomona Ave and Key Road in Albany. Reward FOR SAFE RETURN Pls call 510-508-5551 w/any info

CAT: Large, white, black & grey, long haired male, last seen in W. Vic. Lombard Road, Albany. (925) 287-8009, theslays@aol.com

CAT - Persian, Reward. Small, skinny due to sickness. Light gray/whit fem. Needs med. lost in Richmond Annex 510-585-1483

CAT: Seal Point Siamese color female, 10 yrs old, 10/21, saddle is LOVELY! MISSED, w/Car. Pls/VA W.C. Tim 925-897-5195

COCKATIE BIRD, Grey & white, 6 yrs old, lost Oct 30th 510-521-4939

COCKATIE, 17/174, Red, Pearl It, grey, yellow Very tame, 510-799-1687

COCKATIE, w/ht, w/grey on wings, E. Richmond 10/27, 510-733-1507 Rev

DIAMOND Tennis Bracelet, Very Sentimental, RETURNED. THANKS

DOG: Bichon Frise "Flash", 11/10, 2250 Trotter Way W.C. Tim 925-897-5195

DOG: Maltese 11/12, small white male, 8yo/danville border. Call 925-735-2439

MINIATURE Springer Spaniel, w/ht, w/ht, Columbia St., Pittsburg, 10/4, ex. Int. 925-251-9290

PUPPY: German Shorthair Pit Bull mix, 8mo, Rowell Rd. Reward 925-675-5418

RING: made of blacklights, gold, large man's ring, inscription 1/7/03 Ant. Brentwood, or gals, maybe Ant. golf course. Reward 925-777-0889

WALLET w/CZ Tourist Visa, ID/Maria C. Conto 11/19 Reward 925-787-7879

Central Contra Costa Licensed Child Care

15 YEARS, Act Now! Beautiful Place For Your Child. Semi-structured program. 3 yrs. 6 mos. 3:00pm. Start 10/20/03. 925-825-8768

18 YEARS Exp. Fam. daycare offer Taylor Blvd. 10/20/02 925-733-6410

3 MONTHS+ Good Rates! At-Home Daycare. Call 925-733-6410

AFFORDABLE quality care, preschool, 3 yrs, 6 mos. 3:00pm. Start 10/20/03. 925-825-8768

AFFORDABLE quality care, preschool, 3 yrs, 6 mos. 3:00pm. Start 10/20/03. 925-825-8768

East Contra Costa Licensed Child Care

AFFORDABLE, 5am-7pm. Mokolomo Prewett area. 925-675-0889

ANTIOCH Crafts, activities, 6-10pm, ages 0-5, meals. 925-641-125, 925-498-0718

ANTIOCH Family Daycare/pre-school program, 9am-5pm, 3:00pm-5:00pm, 925-675-0889

ANTIOCH Lonerette/Free. 925-641-125, 925-498-0718

FUNDAYS 6am-7pm. Transp. meals, activities. LIC. 925-675-0889

LOTS of T.C. 925-641-125, 925-498-0718

TATY'S Place/Pets, 0-5yrs. 925-641-125, 925-498-0718

DOG - San Ramon/Danville. 6-yr-old, black & tan, collie mix. 925-634-1695.

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WALLET w/CZ Tourist Visa, ID/Maria C. Conto 11/19 Reward 925-787-7879

West County Licensed Child Care

ALICE'S Preschool/Kindergarten & activities program, 9am-5pm, 3:00pm-5:00pm, 925-675-0889

HERCULES 0-10 yrs. Meats & veg. 925-641-125, 925-498-0718

SWEET Pats Family Child Care, 925-641-125, 925-498-0718

DOG - San Ramon/Danville. 6-yr-old, black & tan, collie mix. 925-634-1695.

FOUND PITBULL - 510-248-6252

Pets

CHIHUAHUA, adorable/tiny, black/CKC, 1st shots, 925-641-125, 925-498-0718

CHIHUAHUA, 1st & precocious, 925-641-125, 925-498-0718

CHIHUAHUA, tiny cup pups, 925-641-125, 925-498-0718

CHINESE Sharpei, 2 choc, 10/10, 925-641-125, 925-498-0718

CHOW pups, AKC, Parents on site, 925-641-125, 925-498-0718

CHOW pups, AKC, Parents on site, 925-641-125, 925-498-0718

COCKATIE, 2 Parakeets & 10 Parrot cage w/whs \$250 all, 925-641-125, 925-498-0718

COCKATIE babbies, All color, 925-641-125, 925-498-0718

COCKATIES Hand fed, 925-641-125, 925-498-0718

CORGI Toy Fox Terrier cross, 8 wks old, \$350, 925-641-125, 925-498-0718

DACHSHUND, mini, AKC, 925-641-125, 925-498-0718

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DACHSHUND, mini, AKC, 925-641-125, 925-498-0718

Pets

RAT TERRIER PUPS, 925-641-125, 925-498-0718

ROTTWEILER pups, Quality AKC, parents titled, 925-641-125, 925-498-0718

ROTTWEILER Puppies, father has papers, born 10/12, 925-641-125, 925-498-0718

ROUGH COCKIE: tri-color, male, 10 mos, \$200, 925-641-125, 925-498-0718

SHEPHERD, 3 pups, 925-641-125, 925-498-0718

SHIH TZU AKC, 4 pups, 925-641-125, 925-498-0718

SHIH TZU AKC, high quality, 925-641-125, 925-498-0718

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Appliances

REBUILT APPLIANCES, 925-641-125, 925-498-0718

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have a proven track record
in sales & activities
based management. Successful
candidates will conduct
student appointments
from a list of pre-
determined leads, recruit
qualified adult students
for various degree programs,
generate referrals
corporate contacts. There
are various openings
throughout our Northern
California campuses.
The University offers a
competitive sal. and employee
benef. pkg. which includes
health ins., 401k, paid
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the University of Phoenix
and be part of the leader
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Sales Pos. F/T, bnfts. Fax
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SEASONAL-Salvation Army
is now hiring **BELLRINGERS**
for the holidays. Pay rate
is \$7/hr. Apply at 3900
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Premier Concord & Walnut
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\$10/hr.

Excellent wages, PTO, Pkg.
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Paid Vacation,
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Must be 21+
HS diploma/GED w/ No
criminal history. flex. in
scheduling. Local residents
service oriented. Law
Enforcement &/or
Military Exp. &
Security Guard Card A+.

If interested you may
apply Sat/Sun 10-12
7200 Redwood Blvd., #301
Novato, CA 94945
(415) 898-9020 or
(415) 898-9021, fax
or Meet w/us at the JLD
OFC. in Pleasant Hill, De-
cember 1st from 11-12pm
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JOINT WINNING TEAM!
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Unarmed, prof. patrol driver
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F/T/PT. Must be avail. W/E
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Lic. DMV printout, FBI
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GUARDIAN SECURITY
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All shifts. Must have
Guard Card & have own
vehicle. Call 925-497-5599
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\$44-50K p/yr. No exp.
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Homes for people seeks
individual to develop/
monitor case mngmt.,
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in their quest toward per-
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Training provided w/ pay-
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DMV. Apply in person at:
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caseload limit of 15 chil-
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Children & Family Svcs.
Contractors must be avail-
able to work evenings, for
week, vacation, holidays
& benefits. Fax resume to:
925-671-4707 or email:
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Web ID CC111650921

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Outreach Specialist
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Web ID CC1112501931

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of Sat/Sun 12pm-5pm
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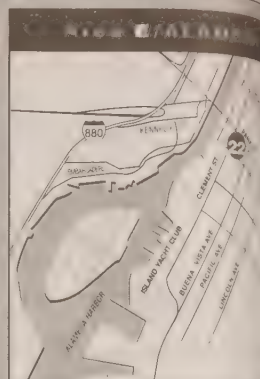
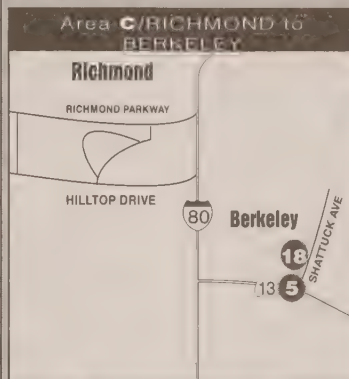
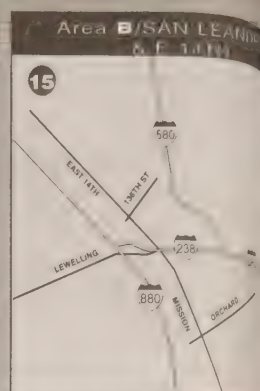
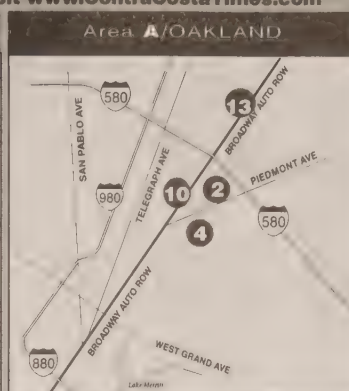
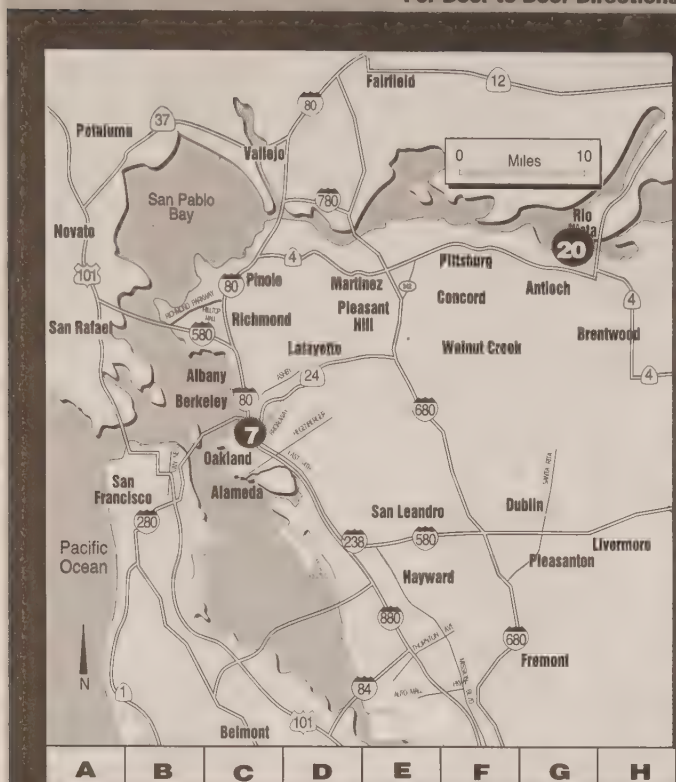
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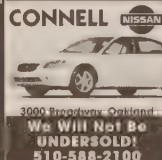
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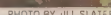
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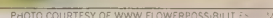
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Flowers of deep purple, ruby red and saturated pink slip natu-

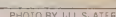


The natural look, with simple wreaths of greens and vines, is also still popular, says Marvin. Fresh flowers can keep this look evolving with the season. From

Some ornaments are designed to hold water and one or two flowers. Their fragile beauty in clear,



See ARRANGEMENTS, Page 2



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Arrangements

FROM PAGE 1

Holiday teacup

Celebrate the holidays with a teacup arrangement. I found a white teacup and saucer at home, but you could purchase one in elegant china or holiday mugs. It will work the same.

Materials:

- Block of floral foam
- 3 stems of baker fern
- 3 stems of red mini-carnations
- 2 stems of white pompon chrysanthemums
- Holly sprigs
- White pine branches
- A festive red bow

Directions:

Step 1: Soak the floral foam and cut it to fit into the teacup, leaving one inch of foam extend up from the lip of the cup.

Step 2: Green-in your design with the triangles of Baker fern, as we've done in the past. Use one longer stem to reach from the back/center upwards no more than twice the height of the cup. So, my cup is three inches tall, so my tallest triangle of Baker fern extends six inches from the lip of the cup. Continue filling in the top and front of the cup with Baker fern, using progressively smaller triangles toward the front.

Step 3: Use your red mini-carnations to make triangles (the blooms are the points of the triangle). Fill in larger spots with the larger white

mums.

Step 4: Add your accents. I added some pine boughs and holly sprigs and a nice red bow.

Pumpkin plate

Pumpkins play an important role during autumn. That's because they practically represent the seasons harvest all by themselves. However, to perk up a pumpkin presentation, surround this gourd with fresh cut flowers. A single pumpkin perched on a footed cake plate takes center stage when petals of posies frame it.

Materials:

- Rimmed and footed cake plate, approximately 10 to 12 inches in diameter. If your cake plate is not rimmed, simply set a dinner plate on top of it.
- 1 6 To 8 inch diameter pumpkin (real or faux)
- 1 brick of floral foam
- 15 stems of red rover chrysanthemums
- 8 stems of burgundy colored hanging amaranthus
- 5 medium sized fall leaves, (maple and oak leaves work well)
- floral clippers and knife

Directions:

Step 1: Soak the floral foam in water for approximately 30 minutes. After the foam is soaked, cut the floral foam to fit and fill the entire inside of the rimmed cake plate. The floral foam should be cut so that it meets the top of the rim of the cake plate. If your cake plate is not rimmed, fill a dinner plate with floral foam.

Step 2: Now set the pumpkin in

the center of the foam filled cake plate.

Step 3: Cut the mums to approximately 2 inches in length and insert them deeply into the floral foam that surrounds the pumpkin. Now cut the hanging amaranthus to approximately 5 inches in length and insert the stems sporadically between the mums.

Step 4: Finally, cut the fall leaves and insert them among the other flowers.

Recipe and photo by Jill Slater

Holiday flower tree

For a simple yet festive holiday centerpiece, try this topiary of gerbera daisies. A holiday-inspired mug is filled with a topiary Christmas tree of red gerbera daisies and tied with a festive holiday ribbon. Cranberries — a holiday tradition — cover the foam for a picture perfect look.

Materials:

- 10 red gerbera daisies
- 1 red or green mug
- 1 half brick floral foam
- 2 feet holiday ribbon
- Fresh cranberries
- 1 rubber band

Directions:

Step 1: Fill container with wet floral foam (soaked in water for at least 30 minutes). Gather the flowers in the web of your hand (between thumb and other fingers), holding them just under the bloom. The flowers should tuck neatly into each other. If right handed gather the flowers in your left hand. Rubber band the stems together and bring the rub-

ber band up just under the blooms. This will make the Gerberas perky and straight.

Step 2: Hold all the stems of the flowers in a neat bundle. Insert the bunch into the center of the floral foam.

Step 3: Cover the floral foam with fresh cranberries. Using your favorite holiday ribbon, tie a bow around the rubber band. For trans-seasonal appeal, change the color of the gerberas or try other flower varieties as iris, standard and miniature carnations, chrysanthemums, roses and lilies. Be sure to match the container and ribbon to the season.

Let your imagination run wild!

Bottled blooms

This "message in a bottle" takes the form of beautiful living blooms. A floral statement composed of one flower or a couple of flowers that have been enclosed in a bottle or vase. Decorative bottles with caps can be purchased for this project or make your own by employing a regular flower vase with an improvised cap.

Bottled blooms make a remarkable display. Best of all, because the bottle is sealed, the flowers inside last a very long time. Interestingly too, the bottled blooms look larger than real-life, as the glass magnifies the blossoms inside.

Materials:

- Clear glass bottle with top or make your own — Use an ordinary vase but top it off with a cork or glass coaster that fits perfectly.

■ (Optional) pea gravel, enough for the bottom of the bottle or vase. Some bottles or vases require pea gravel to keep the flower(s) in place. Pea gravel also adds another dimension to the design.

■ 1 to 2 stems of flowers - roses, carnations, freesia, snapdragons or alstroemeria work well.

Floral Clippers.

Directions:

Step 1: Fill the bottom of the bottle or vase with pea gravel (optional).

Step 2: Fill the bottle or vase three-quarters full with water.

Step 3: Next, insert the flower(s). If using pea gravel, insert the flower stem(s) into it.

Step 4: Now fill the bottle or vase up to the rim with more water.

Step 5: Seal the bottle or vase with its original cap or place your own improvised cap or top.

Recipe and photo by Jill Slater.

Kid-friendly holidays

FEATURE SOURCE

Patty Sachs, author of "Pick a Party: The Big Book of Party Themes and Occasions" and "Pick-a-Party Cookbook: The Big Book of Party Refreshments and Table Décor" (Meadowbrook Press) offers five kid-friendly suggestions:

- For a 100 percent turnout, send an invitation to each child

with instructions to "bring your parents." This strategy generally guarantees enthusiasm, involvement and, in most cases, the child's best behavior.

■ Set up a specially decorated area for children, complete with kid refreshments, activities to keep them entertained and perhaps a teen guest or two to act as "counselors" to supervise the youngsters. Organize simple, easy craft projects that will serve as holiday gifts. Include wrapping supplies to keep them busy even longer.

■ Provide costumes to inspire tiny thespians to put on a short play for the adults. The rehearsals

alone will absorb kids for a stretch of time.

■ At a family gathering, assign each child a senior guest to "look after." Or assign a child to fetch refreshments, clear away soiled glasses and so on. These important roles prompt responsible attitudes and raise self-esteem.

■ Give each child a turn at snapping a picture with a one-use

camera. Expand on the activity and have children write down the names of guests who appear in their creative shot. This is an excellent way to initiate interaction between children and adults — sure to result in the better behavior of both.

For more on catering to kids at holiday gatherings, visit Sachs' Web site, www.pattysachs.com.

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Recipes and tips for a hiwahiwa and ono holiday buffet with a taste of paradise

home than with pineapple decorations on the table!

■ Bamboo placemats can be placed under hot dishes to serve as hot pads.

Bread plays a major role in most holiday meals, and King's Hawaiian has prepared a menu for your family and guests that will evoke the islands for the La nui (holidays).

KING'S HAWAIIAN ISLANDER ARTICHOKE & SPINACH DIP

- 2 loaves (16 ounces) King's Hawaiian Sweet Bread
- 1 cup mayonnaise
 - 1 cup sour cream
 - 1 package (1 ounce) Ranch-style dip mix
 - 1 can (13 to 15 ounces) artichoke hearts, drained and chopped
 - 1 package (10 ounces) frozen chopped spinach, thawed and well drained
 - 1 can (8 ounces) sliced water chestnuts, drained and chopped

Carefully hollow one loaf, leaving 1 inch on sides and bottom. Cube removed bread and additional loaf. Place bowl and cubes on baking sheets and bake in pre-heated 350-degree oven for 10 minutes or until golden brown. Blend mayonnaise, sour cream and dip; mix together in a large bowl. Add artichoke hearts, spinach and water chestnuts; mix well. Cover and refrigerate until well chilled. Transfer to bread bowl and serve with toasted bread cubes.

KING'S HAWAIIAN CRANBERRY MACADAMIA NUT STUFFING

- 6 cups (8 ounces) 1/2 loaf King's Hawaiian Sweet Bread
- 1 cup chopped celery
 - 1/2 cup chopped onion
 - 1/4 cup margarine or butter
 - 1 teaspoon dried sage, crushed
 - 1/2 teaspoon dried thyme, crushed
 - 1/4 teaspoon pepper
 - 1/2 cup macadamia nuts (chopped)
 - 1/2 cup dried cranberries
 - 1/2 cup chicken broth
 - 1 to 2 tablespoon chicken broth (optional)
- Cook celery and onion in margarine or butter in a small saucepan until tender. Remove from heat. Stir in sage, thyme, and pepper. Place dry bread cubes in a mixing bowl. Add celery mixture, macadamia nuts, and cranberries. Add the 1/2 cup chicken broth, tossing to moisten.

Use to stuff one 6 to 8-pound turkey. (Transfer any remaining stuffing to a casserole, adding the 1 to 2 tablespoons chicken broth, if desired, for extra moistness; cover and chill casserole until ready to bake. Bake the casserole, covered, in a 325-degree oven during the last 30 to 45 minutes of turkey roasting until stuffing is heated through. Serves 6 to 8.

Tip: To make 6 cups dry bread cubes, cut 3/4 loaf of bread into 1/2-inch square pieces. Spread in a single layer in a shallow pan at room temperature, loosely covered, for 8 to 12 hours.

KING'S HAWAIIAN ROCKY ROAD BARS

- 1 16-ounce loaf King's Hawaiian Sweet Bread
- 1 12-ounce package semisweet chocolate morsels
 - 1/2 cup butter or margarine
 - 1 1/2 cups miniature marshmallows, divided
 - 1 cup chopped pecans, divided
 - 1 10.8-ounce package non-dairy whipped topping
 - 1 cup vanilla yogurt
- Lightly coat a 13 by 9 by 2-inch baking dish with nonstick spray. Cut bread into 1-inch cubes and place into an extra large mixing bowl. Set both aside. In a saucepan, melt chocolate and butter over low heat; stirring constantly. Remove from heat. Reserve 1/2 cup marshmallows and 1/2 cup pecans for garnish. Stir in whipped topping, and remaining marshmallows and nuts. Combine chocolate mixture with yogurt. Blend well. Fold chocolate mixture into bread until all chunks are well

coated. Spoon into baking dish until evenly spread. Garnish with reserved marshmallows and nuts. Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate until firm. Cut into squares to serve. Makes 12 to 16 servings. Preparation time: 20 minutes

King's Hawaiian Bread Sandwich Platter

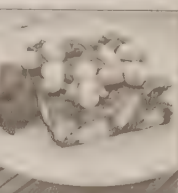
A time-honored tradition practiced during the holidays is to serve turkey, ham, or other types of meat as the main course at family meals. King's Hawaiian suggests taking a different approach to the traditional main course by allowing guests to make their own King's Hawaiian sandwiches. Or for a post-holiday buffet substitute the sandwich platter with King's Hawaiian Turkey Sandwich Supreme using leftover turkey.

Prepare the meat of your choice to your liking, slice it and arrange it on a platter, serve hot or cold. On an additional platter arrange various cheeses, lettuce, tomatoes, onions, and any other topping that you feel your guests may enjoy. Conventional condiments can accompany seasonal ones such as cranberry sauce and gravy. Arrange King's Hawaiian Dinner Rolls (12-pack, account for 2 per person) near the platters of meat and cheese.

TURKEY SANDWICH SUPREME

- 1 16-ounce loaf King's Hawaiian Bread
- 1/4 cup Ranch-style dressing
 - 10-ounce deli-sliced turkey breast
 - 1 cup shredded mozzarella cheese, divided

vided by King's Hawaiian, other holiday food items can be added to enhance your buffet table. Find additional recipes and information on where to find King's Hawaiian bread and rolls by visiting www.king-shawaiian.com



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Hosting a holiday

When plates at the beginning of the table and napkins/silvers are laid out for convenience. Place table runners and place mats in the place of time-honored linen tablecloths. Linen tablecloths in the or guests would serve themselves appropriate condiments and menu items. Interest to a specific dish or extension to your table by using at different heights, used bowls or boxes covered with tablecloths, etc. Candles in various shapes to add ambience to the table. Napkins can be wrapped in with napkins and placed for easy access. In place of napkins, silk flower leis can be tied to napkins to hold them in place. Napkins play an integral role on the table, whether used as the centerpiece or as additional decor. Plants made of traditional Hawaiian flowers and plants such as hibiscus, ivy and berries will add decor. Napkins are the universal symbol of hospitality and what better way to welcome guests into your

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provide information. Mary Jane Garnett, MA, CCC, is a professional audiologist for almost 30 years. She has worked in a variety of clinical settings, including working as a hearing aid dispenser, a hearing aid sales manager, and a hearing aid technician for the US Air Force in many years. She has worked on a clinical basis from the Arizona Department of Health Services and is currently providing professional hearing care at a reasonable cost.

Tsehay Mebrahtu, MA, CCC, is a professional audiologist for almost 10 years. She received her Master's degree from San Jose State University in 1990. Tsehay has worked in a variety of audiologic settings, including hospitals, universities, schools, and private practices in the San Francisco Bay Area.



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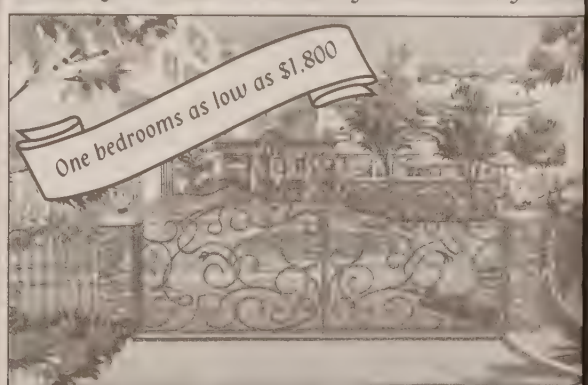
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Prime Times

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More and more of the baby boom generation approaches retirement age, and they will find themselves hearing loss. ReSoundAIR™ hearing instruments are designed to be unobtrusive.

Every ReSoundAIR model incorporates GN ReSound's proprietary ComforTec™ technology, a set of hardware and software features that provide clear, natural sound quality and superior listening comfort. In all models, new venting design keeps the ear canal open to reduce the plugged-up feeling that's common in smaller custom instruments. In fact, in the Mini-BTE (Behind the ear) model, traditional ear molds have been replaced by a transparent plastic sound tube that's virtually invisible, even when someone is looking directly at your ear. The Mini-BTE clings so snugly to the ear that it's unlikely to fall out even during strenuous exercise.

The ReSoundAIR's Warp-Open™ wide dynamic range compressor provides extraordinary resolution for softer high-frequency sounds with near-zero distortion and internal noise. Simultaneously, multi-band, fast-acting noise reduction reduces background noise while leaving speech unaffected. The microprocessor works so incredibly fast, it can actually cut down noise in the tiny pauses between syllables or words. Even the problem of annoying feedback is handled by digital feedback suppression.

"Everything about the ReSound is designed to appeal to today's middle-aged generation," says Kananen. "As I like to say to my patients, 'this isn't your grandma's hearing aid'."

In Contra Costa County, Advanced Hearing Aid Center can provide a demonstration of ReSoundAIR hearing instruments, offer hearing screenings and other services. They can be reached at (925) 674-8621.

GN ReSound, one of the world's largest manufacturers of hearing instruments, is known internationally for setting the pace of innovation in the industry. The company's commitment to intensive research and creative solutions has resulted in a steady stream of innovative products for the hearing-impaired.

For those baby boomers who resist signs of aging, hearing instruments have proven to be a great sell. According to Kananen, today's boomers are more concerned about maintaining a youthful appearance. "They want to be able to hide their hearing loss by not using a hearing aid," Kananen said. "They're also concerned about common hearing aid problems such as over-amplification and the comfort-impairing of a plugged-up ear."

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These 12 stain removal tips will get you through the 12 days of Christmas

- After the halls have been decked and the egg nog has been drunk, the presents under the tree are not all you are left with. Around this time, a gift many people can use is a batch of stain removal tips.**
- The Whirlpool Institute of Fabric Science offers these 12 tips for dashing through the stains:
- **Twelve Coffees Spilling:** Sponge or rinse stain promptly in cold water. Pretreat with liquid laundry detergent, launder using bleach that is safe for the fabric. Wash in the hottest water safe for the fabric.
 - **Eleven Candy Canes Crumbling:** Rinse in warm water to dilute the stain. Wash in warm to hot water and dry as usual.
 - **Ten Egg nogs Splashing:** Rinse in cold water to dilute the stain. Soak up to 30 minutes with detergent, weighted with a towel to keep submerged. Wash in warm to hot water and air dry.
 - **Nine Lipsticks Smudging:** Scrape fabric stain with a dull knife. Use a dry-cleaning solvent or pretreat with detergent. Wash in warm water. Air dry.
 - **Eight Greasy Droppings:** Gently scrape off excess solids with a dull knife. Apply a small amount of liquid dish detergent to the underside of the soiled area, to break up the grease. Machine wash in the warmest water that the care label permits; if the stain still appears, repeat the process, as the toughest stains may require a little extra persistence.
 - **Seven Candles Dripping:** Scrape off the excess wax with a dull knife. Place the stain between paper towels and press with a warm iron from the back of the fabric. When all wax has been removed and ironed out, treat stain with a pretreatment solution or soak in detergent with the warmest water possible. Launder as usual.
 - **Six Chocolates Melting:** Pretreat with a liquid laundry detergent or soak fabric in warm water and a detergent that contains enzymes. Difficult stains may require using bleach that is safe for the fabric.
 - **Five fruits a-flinging:** Carefully remove any surface solids with a dull knife. Try to immediately spot-treat the affected area by rinsing with cold water to remove excess sugars.
 - **Apply a small amount of detergent directly on the stain before washing in the warmest water that is safe for the fabric. Add liquid-chlorine bleach or color-safe bleach to the wash five minutes into the wash cycle, after the detergent has done its job.**
 - **Four salsas sliding:** Scrape off any excess salsa with a spoon or dull knife. Soak fabric in cold water and wash in the warmest water possible for that fabric.
 - **Three wines wobbling:** Sprinkle salt on the stain as soon as possible to draw wine out of the fibers. Blot fabric with a solution of mild detergent and warm water. Then blot fabric with a mix of one-third cup of white vinegar with two-thirds cup of water. Repeat and sponge with clean water.
 - **Two sweaty Santas:** To remove antiperspirant, place the stain face down on a paper towel. Sponge the back of the stain with a dry cleaning solvent. Let dry and rinse off. Rub on a paste of granular laundry detergent and water. Wash in the hottest water safe for the fabric.
 - **And a sap drip from a pine tree:** Use a dry cleaning solvent and then wash in warm to hot water. Repeat if necessary.
- Season's Eatings — and to all a good night!

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MORE Prime Times

Healthy Comes In Many Forms

At Aegis Assisted Living, we believe in six principles of health — and incorporate each into our community daily. These principles of "Optimal Living" are: Beauty, Spirituality, Humor, Learning, Health, and Community.

Beauty: Smile lines tell of the wonderful lives of our residents. Aegis Assisted Living features a Beauty/Barber Salon to not only "do hair and nails", but to enhance a sense of well-being.

Spirituality: There are things in life that touch our souls. Aegis observes many religious holidays — from decorations throughout the community to decorations in residents' apartments.

Humor: Laughter shakes us up and turns us around, makes us feel good. Aegis has frequent entertainers and parties for the entire community to tickle our funny bones and let us kick up our heels.

Learning: Aegis offers speakers, discussion groups, Bible Study Groups, Computer Skills Coaching and Bridge Brush Up Sessions so residents keep learning and mentally growing.

Health: Aegis offers heart-healthy meals, exercise classes, and more. Customized care plans aid with personal care, showering or dressing, medications, even pet care!

Community: Come visit Aegis of Moraga or Aegis of Pleasant Hill and experience for yourself the warm sense of community fostered by residents from many parts of the U.S. A healthy attitude is encouraged by healthy lifestyles. At Aegis Assisted Living, we celebrate life at any age every day!

Call or come by for a personal tour. Aegis of Moraga, 950 Country Club Drive, Moraga, 94552-7900; Aegis of Pleasant Hill, 1660 Oak Park Boulevard, Pleasant Hill, 94523-7900.

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- Free Senior Fitness Class Every Friday at 11:15 a.m. with Jeff in our lobby
- Holiday Door Decorating with Donna from Cottondale Quilt Shop, Nov. 29th at 3:30 p.m. Call to RSVP

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"Best Company to Work For 2003" Washington CEO Magazine

Be a smart shopper this holiday season



impulsively. No matter what your shopping style, it's a good bet it ends up costing you more money than you realize around the holidays — you're spending more time than usual in malls and specialty shops and in the spirit of the season, you're feeling especially generous (you might even sneak in a "gift" for yourself). If you don't have the money for that cashmere sweater, it is all too convenient to put it on the credit card now and deal with it later.

Don't be one of countless consumers who has a fit of panic and regret when the New Year rolls around and the credit card bills start coming in. Begin planning now and you can make it through the holiday season with your finances and your credit rating intact. Here are some ideas to get you started and help you share the joy of the season without going overboard.

Check your credit

You probably have a general idea of your credit card balances, but now is a good time to sit down and get a complete picture of how much you owe and to whom. You may find that you don't have as much available credit to use for the holidays as you thought. You'll also want to check your credit report, both before (to make sure you'll get approved for

more credit if you need it) and after the holidays. You can get a copy of your credit report from Web sites such as creditmatters.com. Verify that all the information is correct, and that there are no unfamiliar charges or accounts on the report. If you carry a monthly balance, this would be a good time to consider consolidating your debt on the card with the lowest interest rate. Just don't use the zero balance on the consolidated cards as an excuse to charge more. You can enter the New Year knowing that your credit is in good shape.

Look to last year

Take a minute to review your holiday spending from last year. You'll be amazed how fast the total adds up. There are obvious expenses such as gifts, but don't forget to include expenditures for decorations, food, party clothes, holiday activities and travel.

Draw up a budget

Once you figure out how much you've spent during the holidays in the past, you can start making a budget for this year. Are there ways you can economize? For example, maybe you can talk to your immediate family about drawing names and buying for just one person, instead of getting gifts for your siblings, their spouses and their kids. In a sim-

ilar vein, why not start a grab bag tradition among your friends, instead of buying individual gifts for everyone. Alternatively, set a price limit with friends and family. You may not want to be the one to broach the subject, but many people will be relieved at the suggestion.

Stick to your budget

Having a budget and sticking to it are two different things. Holidays are a time when emotions can easily trump good sense. With a budget in place, you're less likely to succumb to impulse spending. You might want to include an "unexpected expenses" category in your budget for last-minute emergencies, like buying a gift for the co-worker who wasn't on your list, but who gives you an unanticipated present.

Take advantage of sales

The past few years have been a bonanza for bargain shoppers as stores strive to entice shoppers during a sluggish economy. Look for good deals, and remember to save your receipts. Many stores will credit you with the difference in price if an item goes on sale within a certain timeframe after you buy it.

Plan for next year

Keep all your receipts and add up how much you spend this year; figure out what that translates to per month, and start putting that amount away for holiday spending during the coming year.

Throughout it all, have fun. After all, 'tis the season to be jolly. Just because you're on a budget doesn't mean you can't enjoy the holidays. For more information on checking your credit report, visit creditmatters.com. Courtesy of ARA Content.

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Hearing loss may be due to age, noise, or as a result of loud noise in your workplace. You may be eligible.

Tattoo Removal with Lasers

Do you have a tattoo? And now you want it removed? Lasers can be used to remove tattoos and leave you with skin that looks as if you never had a tattoo. Amazingly enough, the new lasers and their scarless work is so effective that it can penetrate society. Other methods of tattoo removal that produce scars are still being offered to the public. And poor people using lasers can injure the skin and also cause scars. Tattoos are not removed in skin without scarring, now there is no reason the skin will not be removed in removal. A tattoo laser, an experienced technician, and a client who understands the removal process.

Do you have a tattoo? Diablo Regional Laser Center in Walnut Creek owns a laser that removes tattoos of all colors. Their professionals have 10 years of experience using lasers and have trained physicians and technicians in the technique of laser tattoo removal. They explain the process as they go. Color-selective lasers target the tattoo ink, which are the different colors of the skin, but passes through the pigment-making cells and attacks only the fleck of

tell their patient: "Tattoos are not permanent, but scars are. Tattoos can be removed scarlessly with lasers, using proper technique, timing of treatment and care of the skin."

SEE OUR AD IN THIS SECTION
For additional information on laser treatment for skin problems, hair removal or tattoo removal, call **Diablo Regional Laser Center at 925-932-6442**, or visit our website at www.diablolaser.com

Kristin Walker, M.D.
Dr. Kristin Walker, a board certified dermatologist and member of the American Academy of Dermatology, received her B.S. at UC Davis and her M.D. at USC. After a pediatric internship, she completed her dermatology residency at USC. Since 1996, Dr. Walker practiced in Malibu and Westlake Village in Southern California and was faculty dermatologist at Pepperdine University. For the past two years, she practiced in Marin where she was raised.

Dr. Walker specializes in adult and pediatric dermatology, skin cancer, and cosmetic work. With experience in a highly cosmetic office in Southern California, Dr. Walker performs Botox, Collagen, Laser, Chemical Peels, and sclerotherapy for spider veins. She also offers the latest products for healthy skin care.

Great Way to Refresh The Face Without Surgery or Pain!

As we age, we become aware that various factors are causing our skin to appear older. It may include freckles, Rosacea, wrinkles, dark spots, blotchy skin, redness on the face and neck, enlarged pores, crepeiness around the eyes, lines around the mouth and uneven pigmentation.

Many of us are looking for rejuvenation procedures to erase or minimize the inevitable ravages of time. And we want no "downtime". No time off of work, no great expense. There is an answer! Photo Rejuvenation is a procedure that can treat vascular redness, sun damage, fill in fine lines, smooth out skin texture, shrink pore appearance and increase collagen. With the use of the Intense Pulse Light (IPL), technological improvements can now be accomplished with no discomfort.

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Allergy and Asthma Medical Group, Clinical Research Division

The Allergy and Asthma Medical Group was founded in Contra Costa County in the East Bay of the San Francisco Bay Area in 1974. We maintain a clinical practice specializing in allergy and asthma. We also conduct clinical research studies in our Clinical Research Division located in Walnut Creek. We are currently conducting a number of clinical studies of various medications for both children and adults. Current studies compensate qualified subjects for their time and travel. Our studies are sponsored by major pharmaceutical companies and are conducted following Federal Drug Administration procedures. The principal investigators include Nathan Schultz, MD, David Cook, MD, David Denmead, MD and Joshua Jacobs, MD, who are each board certified in allergy and immunology.

Here are some common questions about our clinical trials and their answers: How long are the programs? The duration of each clinical trial differs. Generally the programs last from 6 weeks to 6 months. However, we have some programs which last about a year. Patients may discontinue from the program at any time by notifying our office. How many visits are there? The number of visits varies by length of program, but range from 5 to 13. Do I have to pay to participate? No. All studies offer compensation for persons who enroll in and complete a study. Compensation is prorated if a person withdraws. Are research medications approved? We conduct studies with medications not yet approved for prescription as well as those which are. Some of our studies compare various approved medications or treatment regimens. Research projects may also evaluate medication delivery systems. If you have other questions, or would like to find out if you are eligible, please give us a call at (925) 935-2599.

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Gathering with extended family for the holidays doesn't have to be painful

Aunt Edna is upset because Cousin Billy is bringing his new girlfriend, and she doesn't think she should have to buy her a gift. Sue and Harry's family can only come on the Saturday before the holiday, and Aunt Judy insists that everything be home cooked.

Considering the obstacles and opinions, why will Americans mob the airports and highways this holiday season, as they do every year, to attend gatherings with their extended families?

"People need to feel that connectedness," surmises Charlotte Shoup Olsen, an associate professor of family studies and extension specialist at Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kan. "When everyone is together you get that sense of being part of a bigger community — not in the sense that you live close by, but just in a sense of belonging. Holidays, especially, offer a good opportunity to build that family history together."

According to a recent poll conducted by Harris Interactive and sponsored by Modern Woodmen of America, Rock Island, Ill., 90 percent of Americans attend a holiday event such as Thanksgiving or Christmas with extended family.

"Nearly all Americans in our survey (99 percent) feel it's good for children to know their relatives and family history," comments Sharon Snawerdt of Modern Woodmen. Modern Woodmen, a fraternal benefit society offering financial services, promotes strong family relationships through its many member programs as well as its Web site, www.gatherings.info.

Snawerdt adds, "Ninety percent of survey respondents indicated that spending time with extended family is one of the most important parts of their lives."

Family feuds

The holidays are a time for "peace on earth," but that doesn't stop Uncle Joe from fighting with Aunt Helen.

Ninety percent of Americans attend a holiday event such as Thanksgiving or Christmas with extended family.

According to a recent poll conducted by Harris Interactive and sponsored by Modern Woodmen of America

"Holidays are a time when people come home, and grown, mature adults will fall back into those old childhood roles in the family and past hard feelings resurface," explains Olsen.

"Big sis just can't get over feeling that baby brother was spoiled rotten, even if they are both in their 40s."

Olsen says that all family members should be included in the invitation, even the black sheep or the two family members having a feud.

"If someone refuses to come because so and so will be there, there is nothing you can do about it," she says. "That is his or her baggage."

Olsen offers some tips for how to handle family members who may not like to be in the same room with one another.

■ Appoint a neutral member of

the family to take on the role of mediator. (This person should use humor and tact to encourage guests to avoid touchy subjects. In other words, if Uncle Joe starts discussing Grandpa's will, the mediator should gracefully make it known that this isn't the appropriate time to bring up that topic.)

■ Assign seats using place cards.

■ Set up smaller table arrangements throughout the house.

■ Limit alcoholic beverages. Alcohol makes some people braver and more confrontational.

Giving and receiving

It wouldn't be the holidays without gift giving, but as families grow larger many struggle with how to handle it. Olsen offers these tips:

■ A grab bag. In this system, set a price limit and have each guy bring a guy gift and each gal bring a gal gift.

■ A drawing. Each participant planning to attend the event draws a name from a hat (or via phone or email) and brings a gift for only that person.

■ A homemade gift exchange. Crafts, food items and artwork are good suggestions. This is for the family willing to invest some time, but not as much money.

■ A "time" gift certificate exchange. These can feature anything from snow shoveling to babysitting services.

■ A kids-only exchange.

■ A collection of donations for the local food pantry or group sponsorship of a needy family.

Finally, Olsen suggests forgoing the gift giving altogether and replacing it with activities even more meaningful. Modern Woodmen's www.gatherings.info Web site offers a host of tips for making your family gathering fun. Aside

from the standard board games and card games, your family may want to try these ideas:

Games and activities

■ "Picture Lotto": Make your own game using copies of your family pictures.

■ "Frosty": Use some toilet paper, construction paper and family teams to have some family fun in this interactive game.

■ "Unwrap the Gift": This game uses a bag of candy or small gift items, a multi-layer-wrapped gift box and some music to create fun for the very young, as well as the adults.

Scrapbook, photography and video ideas

■ A Family Time Capsule: It

can't get much easier than videotaping the festivities to save for posterity. You can incorporate interviews with family members asking them to share their favorite memories or a song.

■ Gathering Scrapbook: More than compiling a multifaceted record of a gathering, creating scrapbooks can be a rewarding. At your next family event have each family create a page.

Take pictures that day thinking about each family, so you can get a representative sample. When the film is developed, place the appropriate pictures with that family's page. Compile together and share at your next gathering.

"The important part of gift giving isn't so much what you get, but prolonging the family time to-

gether," says Olsen. "When you have a gift exchange, you can have activities or games to do together. You have a short amount of time to sing carols or look at albums."

You can view family history make a video heritage. One day tradition is an opportunity to eat to spend time together, but you want to have a good memory for the future. "That's one gift everyone can appreciate."

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Light up your holidays the easy way

More people turning to professional lighting services

ARA

Even Scrooge wouldn't dare say "bah humbug" to a dazzling display of holiday lights. He'd be even happier if he didn't have to string the lights himself, and there are a growing number of companies that specialize in doing just that.

The past few years have seen a trend of people turning to professional installers to deck their halls with eye-popping home light displays. While for some individuals and families, putting up the outdoor holiday decorations is a cherished tradition, for many others it is a dreaded winter chore. These folks would rather avoid the frustrations of burned out strings of lights, working in freezing temperatures and climbing tall ladders perched on icy sidewalks.

"People who use our service choose it for a variety of reasons," says Kevin York, vice president of Christmas Decor, a Texas-based company that specializes in holiday lighting displays for homes and businesses nationwide in 47 states and Canada. "Bad weather, hard-to-reach spots, safety factors and limited time are all reasons we hear from our customers."

Hiring a professional lighting

installer not only saves headaches, it also makes for a more polished look. "Our dealers go through an intensive training process that teaches them design principles as well as technical requirements," says York. "Untrained individuals can't compete with the crisp and clean look of professional installation."

Working with a professional lighting installer gives homeowners a variety of options, from simple to spectacular. For example, Christmas Decor dealers will provide customers with plans, similar to blueprints, with different design ideas. "We usually start with lights on the house and then add on from there," says York.

Other options include decorating windows, and adding landscape lighting such as staked lighting or luminaries along walks, flowerbeds and driveways. Garlands, wreaths and bows are available for ornamentation that stands out during daylight hours.

Often, customers will start out simple the first year and then add on to their design in following years. "We work with the homeowner to decide what they really like and what fits their budget," says York.

Christmas Decor will install lights their customers already own, or customers can buy professional-grade lights from the company. "We have heavy duty commercial type bulbs that last 3,000 hours; most bulbs purchased in

the store last only about 800 hours," says York. His company will maintain the lights the first year for customers who purchase lights through their dealer, even replacing burned out bulbs. Professional installers also take down the decorations after the holidays and will store them if the customer prefers.

Clear lights are the overwhelming top choice among customers, but colored lights are especially popular among families with kids. Adding color to the design also helps differentiate one house from another if a number of homes in a given neighborhood are professionally decorated.

Sounds good, but what would Scrooge say about the cost of hiring a professional lighting installer? The cost depends on the size of the home and how elaborately it is decorated.

The average decorating job runs between \$900 and \$1,300. But the cost can start as low as \$300 to \$400. The first year tends to require the biggest investment, as customers usually opt to purchase the lights. Then the cost for the second year is about half of the first year's price.

"Whatever amount a customer feels comfortable spending, we will make sure their house looks great," York promises. Christmas Decor has 350 dealers in the U.S. and Canada.

To find a dealer near you, visit the company's Web site at www.christmasdecor.net.

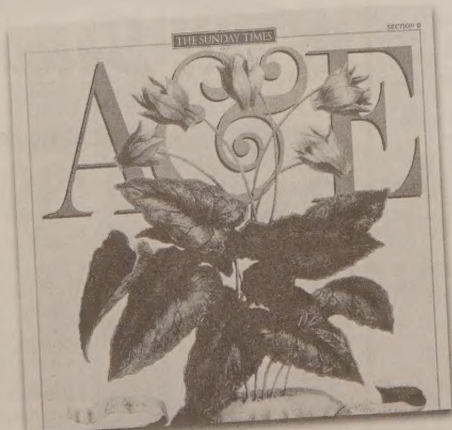


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